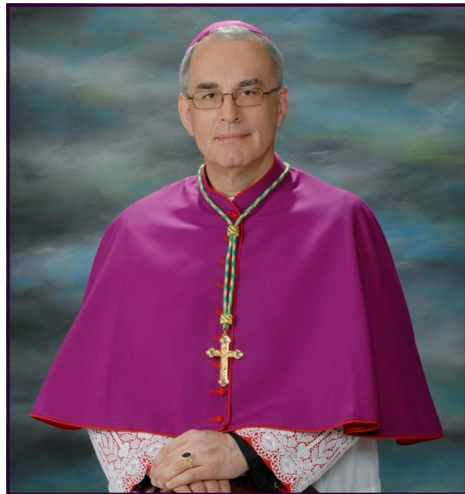


# THE MESSENGER

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



## REJOICE IN YOUR LENTEN DISCIPLINES

*"...with the return of that season marked out in a special way by the mystery of our redemption, and of the days that lead up to the paschal feast, we are summoned more urgently to prepare ourselves by a purification of spirit."*

*"The special note of the paschal feast is this: the whole Church rejoices in the forgiveness of sins. It rejoices in the forgiveness not only of those who are then reborn in holy baptism but of those who are already numbered among God's adopted children."*

Saint Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, *Sermo 6 de Quadregesima*, 1-2, PL. 54, 285-287, Ash Wednesday, Office of Readings.

As a fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, it's not easy to write this, but I was impressed with the unity shown by New England fans when they won the Super Bowl. That energy and positive spirit exhibited in Boston during a rain and snow storm truly showed a united jubilant spirit. People of all groups joined as one, cheering on their team and expressing a oneness of jubilation.

I mention this because in the reading from the Daily Office cited above, a radically different vision of Lent is presented than one normally understood by Catholics. The common view is that Lent is a period of self-sacrifice, of personal penance, of a sharing in the pain and suffering of Jesus Christ that led to His crucifixion on Calvary Hill. It is neither pleasant nor desirable.

But Leo is suggesting something quite different. Leo is telling us that the Lenten season leads to a Paschal Feast of rejoicing for all the souls that have been reborn in Holy Baptism, for all the people who have recommitted to our Lord Jesus and His Church, through which His Kingdom is being established on this earth. The reading speaks of rejoicing in the forgiveness so freely given by God to all who turn from their sins. A little further in the same reading we hear: "...Men are made new by the rebirth of Baptism. Yet there is still required a daily renewal to repair the shortcomings of our mortal

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nature, and whatever degree of progress has been made there is no one who should not be more advanced. All must therefore strive to ensure that on the day of redemption no one may be found in the sins of his former life." Going back to the Patriots analogy, we've heard that the clubhouse motto was and is: "keep focused and get the job done."

So Lent is more than just penance and abstinence. It is performing these disciplines in a jubilant spirit. Jesus Christ has already accomplished for us that which is required in His redemptive death on the Cross. We are then called in Lent to emulate His commitment of "keeping focused and getting the job done." Scripture tells us that "there is more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine righteous souls." So in emulating Christ we are called to rejoice with those who are turning from sin and turning toward Jesus.

And this attitude makes a lot of sense. After all, would you want to be a part of a Church whose members are always, joyless, with dour long faces, people who by their very demeanor drag others down with them? I think not. And so we must really think how we approach Lent. Is Penance to be viewed as a penalty or as a challenge? Is fasting to be considered an undesirable but necessary deprivation of self, or does it provide an opportunity to refocus our energy in more positive and productive efforts? When the Patriots began their season in training camp almost nine months ago, they had a goal set, but the approach they had towards the discipline and practice, their positive and joyful spirit, made all the difference in "getting the job done." This Lent, let us focus on getting the job done without getting distracted by the "It's so hard to give up what I'm giving up", "the penance I'm experiencing is so hard", "the additional church services are such a burden..."

Rather, be up for the challenges this year's Lent will present. And be a source of encouragement to others who are traveling down the same Lenten road. Be supportive of one another, and let the joy you experience as you support your brother and sister be seen by others. Commitment is an interesting state, because as you demonstrate commitment, others are drawn to that same commitment. Others will want to share your goals. And as they are gradually accomplished, then all those who are committed increase the joy and support they give one another, and others see that joy and commitment and want to be a part of it... and the Body of Christ grows.

If you want your parish to grow, put your heart and soul into Lent this year. Be that example and source of encouragement for others and be loud in your support of everyone making the same Lenten commitment. Only a few men in a Patriots uniform that "kept focused on getting the job done" were able to excite the greater part of New England. And they did this for a sport that is, in the greater realm of things, a passing thing. But twelve men (the Apostles) and St. Paul were able to excite many millions of people for a faith that was no passing fancy but rather that which was redemptive and eternal.

Don't we want millennials to get excited about the Church, the faith, the commitment both require? Then let's set the example by being joyful in our approach to Lent, joyful in our approach to penance, joyful in our approach to abstinence. Let us be joyful in all things to bring the joy of Christ into the hearts and souls of others.

I want to encourage all our Eastern Diocese family members to look up these Scripture citations and then apply them to your Lenten journey this year:

Proverbs 17:22; Romans 15:13; Romans 12:12; Psalm 28:7; James 5:13; John 14:27; John 16:22; 1 John 4:18. And here are two you need not look up: *"...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."* (2 Timothy 1:7); *"For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 14:17).

**Bishop Paul**

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

### **Action Plan for 2017- A YEAR OF COMMITMENT**

**1. Greater Understanding of Church Solemnities:** In 2017 we will focus on the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church. This will be celebrated on March 12, 2017. A pamphlet will be prepared and distributed – this will complete the series of pamphlets for our four special PNCC Solemnities. Also, an online presentation will be led by our Prime Bishop on the History of our PNCC and Bishop Francis Hodur. A community service project could be tied into this effort as well.

**2. Two Days of Retreat: Lent and Advent** Pick a day during the seasons of Lent (March 11 in Woonsocket) and Advent in 2017 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 local community.

**3. Complete at least four community service projects:** One service project could be in conjunction with the Institution of the PNCC in March of 2017 and the others, selected by the local parish. It is important that these three 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: 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, responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

**4. Implementing the Commitment Component:** Develop and emphasize this theme through 2017. Please see the monthly Future Direction emails regarding this effort.

January – Our Spiritual Commitment to Christ and His Church

February – Our Financial Commitment and Stewardship

March – Commitment to our PNCC

April – Our Commitment as Easter People

May – A Commitment to guidance of the Holy Spirit

June – *Sacred Vocations Month*– A Commitment to Sacred Vocations  
(*Encourage our men to consider the ordained ministry*)

July - Commitment to constant prayer

August – Commitment to our Youth

September – Our Commitment to Living a life of Love

October – *Clergy Appreciation Month* - Our Commitment to Faith and Family

November – Our Commitment to living Thankful lives

**5. Stewardship component** to increase our financial commitment to our parishes, diocese and national church will be developed. A Pamphlet will be shared with all parishes. We then encourage parish committees to communicate this with the people and stress to them that stewardship is an integral part of a lived faith.

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

**7. Continuing Adult Education** from the diocesan synod surveys many are asking for more adult education. The parish can purchase copies of ***“An Abridged History of the PNCC”*** and this book be used for a discussion series for all parishioners as we focus on the Institution of the PNCC in 2017. Other educational opportunities added to this this can be: a parish Bible Study, the Alpha Program, a Lecture series on Church teachings, etc., led by the local pastor.

**8. Utilize Social Media & PNCC Future Direction You Tube Channel:** Various spiritual messaging from our Prime Bishop and Bishops to be continued throughout the year. We encourage parishes to keep up to date their websites and Facebooks pages. Social Media is the mode of communication most used by our younger members.

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.



## **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 Convo 2106 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

From our parishes...

## Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH



- Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Cathedral in Manchester, NH prepared for Ash Wednesday on Sunday, March 26 by burning palms from the previous year. The burned palms provide the ashes that will be imposed on people's foreheads.



## Holy Cross Parish, Enfield, CT



- On December 3, 2016 Holy Cross Parish in Enfield, CT held its third annual Christmas Fair. All kinds of baked goods could be found at our huge bake sale. The gingerbread ones are always a big hit! Santa and Mrs. Claus were available for pictures with the children and new this time was our friend John, the Elf!

*(Heidi Ragno and daughter Sophia)*





*(Friends of Holy Cross Parish - John Murrone & Julie Fredrickson as Elf and Mrs. Claus)*

- In addition to some beautiful raffle baskets and our tag sale items, we also had a costume jewelry table sale going on. This was a favorite with the ladies coming in to shop! Our vendors had some wonderful items to offer as well – it was a great day for all!

### **Ladies' Valentine's Tea**

- Holy Cross Parish in Enfield, CT held a Ladies' Valentine's Tea on Saturday, February 11, 2017. This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Valentine's tea and best attended one so far! We had approximately 30 ladies (parishioners, family and friends) enjoying all sorts of wonderful food made by Karen Peirce.

- In addition we had Valentine's/chocolate/comfort themed raffle baskets and costume jewelry tables set up.

• The centerpieces were courtesy of Nancy Lee, Secretary. Admission was just 15.00.

• The Hartford Courant Newspaper also came to take pictures and interview some of the attendees. The article is scheduled to be in The Courant Community Newspaper very soon.



*(Nancy Lee serving more hot water and Karen Caron)*

- Everyone enjoyed themselves and those that had not attended our prior teas cannot wait for the next one! We are thinking around Mother's Day or so for the next one.

**By Nancy Lee**



*(Friends of Holy Cross – Margie James and Karen Caron)*



## From Our Parishes ...

### Blessed Trinity shows commitment to begin the PNCC Year of Commitment

Blessed Trinity parish in Fall River continues to take advantage of opportunities to put our precious faith into action in meaningful ways in our greater Fall River community. An incredible response was received in Advent for our commitment to help our neighbors in need. Our Toy Drive was held in conjunction with our Neighborhood Watch group and the other neighborhood associations across the city. We were blessed to open our doors and welcome folks from across the city for an incredible wrapping party to help hundreds of children in need across the city. A huge Thank You to the wonderful officers of our Fall River Police Department for their efforts in distributing the toys to many families.



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





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



Unfortunately in Fall River our homeless population continues to grow. A recent headline showed 381 homeless in our city. Blessed Trinity made a commitment to that and our city by having a Warming Center each Monday during the entire winter season. We provide a light breakfast and then serve hot homemade soup and a warm meal for lunch. We have received donations of several new winter clothing items we have given out to our guests. A big thank you to all who donated winter coats, hats, gloves, socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants and thermals. Also for all the toiletries donated and numerous \$5 Dunkin Donut gifts cards. Many homeless folks have been served in the parish and this effort will continue through the remainder of this winter. This has been a wonderful experience living the Gospel in its most basic form. The gratitude and stories of our guests at the Warming Center put so many things into perspective as we live as disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Fr. Sr. Rob have been working with the Mayor's Office and other local clergy to help these brothers and sisters in need. The parish also supplied food and clothing for an emergency Warming Center opened at Government Center for a very cold stretch in December.





Blessed Trinity has also committed to make a difference in Suicide awareness and prevention. The parish hosted a safeTALK Suicide Alertness Training orday - January 28th. This training helped those attending identify warning signs of suicide and how to direct one who is hurting so badly.



Recover Fall River is another commitment Blessed Trinity made by hosting their painting and pancakes fundraiser. This group is working to fight the opioid crisis in our area. May God bless them in their efforts. The stories of those involved in this work were just breathtaking.



Our annual commitment to the Souper Bowl of Caring was again made this year. Another incredible drive with hundreds of cans of soup collected. We were also thrilled that the GOAT - Tom Brady had time to make an appearance before the big game solidifying him as the Best Quarterback Ever! Patriots cupcakes were enjoyed by all at coffee hour this Sunday. Fr. Sr. Rob also presented a check to the parish for \$50 from Fr. Sr. Rick Seiler from a wager he won as the Patriots beat the Steelers on the way to their 5th Championship.

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





## From Our Parishes...

### Holy Cross News – Central Falls, RI



Our annual Candlelight Service and Birthday Party for Jesus was held on Sunday, December 18, 2016 and we had another great turnout. Clergy and faithful from across the Northeast seniorate gathered at Holy Cross parish to spend time in prayer, worship, reflection and fellowship as we prepared to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich celebrated this service and preached God's Word.



Our Birthday Party for Jesus followed and we enjoyed the beautiful birthday cake that was delicious. We also thank the ladies society for providing soup and sandwiches.





During December our parish held their annual Winter Clothing Drive – this was our best drive to date with several bags of clothing collected. These items were handed out to children who needed them at the Central Falls Holiday Party the weekend before Christmas. We also participated in the Souper Bowl for Caring on Feb. 5th - putting the teachings of our Lord into action to help those who need it.

Submitted by,

*Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*

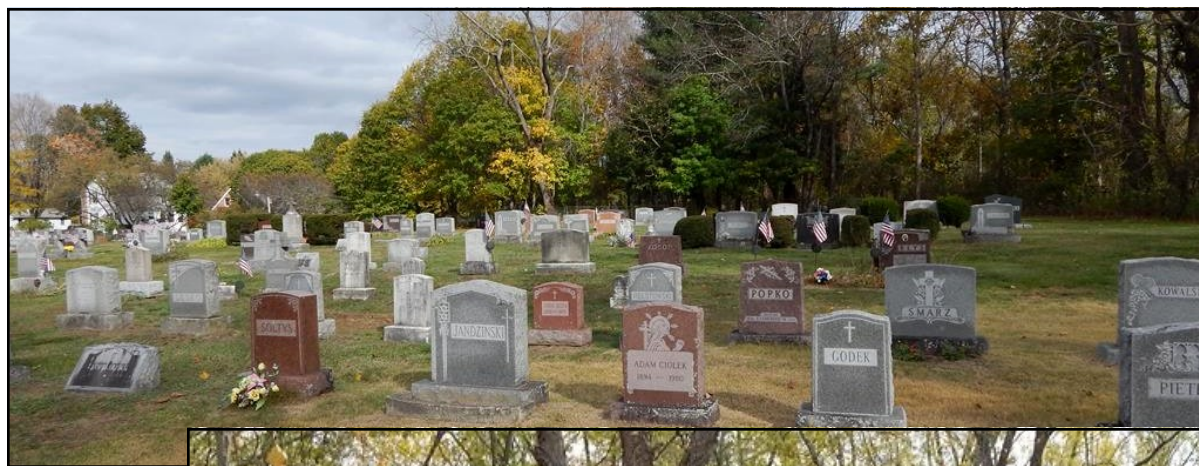




From our parishes...

## St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA

### ALL SOULS DAY SERVICE



Sunday, October 31, 2016 at 2 p.m., Fr. Czarnecki and parishioners celebrated the All Souls Day Service to honor and remember all our departed clergy, parishioners, parents, brothers, sisters, friends and all who died in the service of their country at our Holy Trinity Cemetery of St. Valentine's PNC Church. It was a very beautiful and moving service. Participants with processional cross and incense processed and sang a beautiful hymn, stopping at five areas of the 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.***

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.

***By Krysia Newman***



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH

Sunday, November 27, 2016 at 2 p.m., St. Valentine's Parish held its Annual Christmas Concert featuring 'Bella Voce' - Lisa Woods, Mezzo-Soprano, Teri LaFleur, Soprano, Jerry Noble, Pianist and Special Guest: Patricia O'Connor, Soprano. These talented individuals



performed many of the Christmas classics both sacred and secular – from “Angel Carol”, “Little Drummer Boy” “Gesu Bambino” and “Christmas Glory Hallelujah” to “Silver Bells”, “Home for the Holidays” “Jingle Bells Rock!” and “Sleigh Ride”. It was a spectacular event with nearly 100 guests in attendance. The audience was engaged in the singing of many of the well-known Christmas Carols as well. The spirit of Advent and the coming of Christmas filled our hearts with joy.



Jerry Noble, Lisa Woods, Patricia O'Connor, Teri LaFleur

The performers:

## **Lisa Woods**

Lisa is a professionally trained opera singer and has a highly significant career in the Pioneer Valley and beyond with hundreds of performances to her credit. She has been presented in numerous recital venues and is a regular guest performer for the Springfield Massachusetts chapter of the Tuesday Morning Music Club (TMMC) and serves on its Board of Directors and is also Co-Chairperson for the TMMC's Junior Extension Division. She is a very gifted and gracious entertainer.

## **Teri LaFleur, Soprano**

Teri has performed as a soloist in numerous venues within the Pioneer Valley and throughout the region. She has appeared in many principle roles in both musical theatre and several plays. Teri is a voice instructor at Springfield College and maintains a very active private studio as well. She too, along with Lisa is a performing member of the Tuesday Morning Music Club.

## **Jerry Noble, Pianist**

Jerry is an accomplished Pianist and serves as the Staff Accompanist at Smith College. His compositions and arrangements include vocal, choral, chamber and orchestra music; he has been commissioned by the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Holyoke Civic Symphony as many other music societies and choral groups. Jerry an avid traditional jazz pianist has also recorded seven CDs with clarinetist Bob Sparkman.

## **Patricia O'Connor, Soprano**

Patricia is the soloist/cantor for Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Westfield as well as soprano section leader for the Edwards Church choir in Northampton. She has performed in numerous productions throughout the area including the Westfield State Opera Workshop; The Westfield Theater Group and The Valley Light Opera. Patricia is a former soloist with and member of the Springfield Symphony Chorus and the Wilbraham Madrigal Singers. She is in her eighth year as director of the Quarter Notes, the chorus for the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts.

These very gifted individuals will again perform for our 2017 Christmas Concert – be sure to watch for the announcement!

*by Krysia Newman*



# POLSKIE KOŁĘDY SING ALONG

*"A Fabulous and  
Heartwarming Event"*



St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church and the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton, Massachusetts celebrated the Christmas Season with a festival of Polish Carols. The event was held January 8, 2017 and hosted by St. Valentine's Church. With thirty lead singers and well over two hundred guests, the

Annual Polskie Koledy Sing Along featured twenty-two traditional Polish Christmas Carols and Pastoralki. Some of the selections included: "Cicha noc", "Wśród nocnej ciszy", and "Śliczna

Panienka", "Z narodzenia Pana", "Dzisiaj w Betlejem", "Oj Maluśki, Maluśki", "Gdy śliczna Panna", "Pastuszkowie bracia mili", "Do szopy hej pasterze", "Jezusa narodzonego" and "Nowy Rok bieży". The lead singers were comprised of choir members from area churches throughout the Pioneer Valley. The organist for the event was Jean Gromacki and the choir director was

Fran Moro. In addition, the program included a live Nativity scene portrayed by Stephen Matusiewicz (Joseph), Laurie Smarz (Mary), George Smarz, Isaac Scott and Francis Martin (3 Kings). Some are students from the Polish Language Class and parishioners of St. Valentine's Church.

Also, special guest musicians were invited to participate – Jeff and Veronica Rovatti. Jeff and

Veronica Rovatti are a brother and sister duo from Feeding Hills, MA. Both distinguished musicians have played with many orchestras throughout the northeast performing different genres of music. Jeff has been entertaining audiences with his concertina for the past decade and is the leader of the Rovatti Polka Band accompanied by three sisters and co-leader Jeff and Joe Polka Band. Veronica is a well-known violinist and is the lead vocalist of the Rovatti Polka Band. She is also a member of the Jeff and Joe Polka Band as well as a frequent guest musician with other local Polish bands. Both musicians have played for a variety of occasions including church parties, weddings, anniversaries, Oktoberfest's and community concerts.



*Cont. on next page*



## POLSKIE KOŁĘDY SING ALONG



Rev. Czarnecki opened the event with prayer asking God to open our hearts to praise Him and give glory by singing the beautiful Polish Carols which are about his miraculous birth. During the intermission Rev. Czarnecki blessed incense and chalk for distribution to all in attendance.

Bob Gibowicz, Chairman of the Polish Heritage Committee, Northampton, spoke about "Polish Christmas Traditions."

Very Rev. Banas offered a closing prayer and noted that the event was beautiful and the carols described what Christmas is all about – the birth of Jesus. It was very heartwarming to see so many guests in attendance. Many of the guests noted that the concert of carols reminded them of many wonderful memories of years past. The event culminated with a reception and fellowship in the Church hall. We are all looking forward to the 2018 Polskie Kolędy Sing Along which will take place January 7, 2018.



by Krysia 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
- ♦ **Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:30 pm** — **Zapusty at St. Valentine's Church**
- ♦ **Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 1:00 pm** — **Ham Dinner** — St. John Cantius Parish Center (sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee). For tickets call: Bob Gibowicz at 413-586-1079; Krysia Newman 413-584-4531
- ♦ **Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 12:00 noon** — **Polish Dinner** — St. Valentine's Parish. For tickets call the Rectory Office at 413-584-0133



TENTH ANNUAL

## POLISH DINNER

**MAY 21, 2017**

**12:00 NOON**

**ST. VALENTINE'S PNC CHURCH**

**PARISH HALL**

**127 KING STREET, NORTHAMPTON, MA**

**TICKET COST: \$15/PERSON**

**RESERVATIONS/TICKETS:**

**PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY OFFICE AT**

**413-584-0133 BY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> - TICKETS ARE LIMITED!**

### MENU:

GOLABKI  
CHEESE PIEROGI  
CABBAGE PIEROGI  
CABBAGE WITH SPARERIBS  
KIELBASA  
HAM

HOMEFRIES  
RYEBREAD/BUTTER  
HORSERADISH  
PICKLES  
COFFEE/TEA/MILK  
DESSERT



**THE POLISH DANCE GROUP**

**FROM ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, WESTFIELD, MA**

**WILL ENTERTAIN WITH LIVELY TRADITIONAL POLISH DANCES.**



From our parishes...

## Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

### Parish Events:

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

This year, eight children from two families were sponsored. All donors remain anonymous to those who receive the gifts. This event is important to share with those in the community of Woonsocket the spirit of giving, and share with their children the love that it brings to us to make their Christmas special. It is important for us all to remember, that no matter how big or small our organization or individual parish may be, that we are making the difference in the life of someone less fortunate. All it takes is one person to make a difference.

- **SOCL Christmas Pageant.** On Sunday, January 15, 2017, during annual Parish Oplatek Dinner the School of Christian Living entertained parishioners of Our Saviour's and invited guests with Christmas Pageant.



The SOCL Students dressed as angels and the wise man decorated Christmas tree on the stage with the Christmas star, and told us the story of the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ in a poor manger. The children had previously practiced their parts and were very excited to perform the Christmas play and speak about the birth of Christ. As children read different parts of this play, parishioners and guests joined them in singing songs. At the conclusion of the play all together sang Happy Birthday to Jesus.. After the play, Father Henryk blessed the oplatek and the food. After sharing wishes with each other all enjoyed the many different foods and desserts made by our parishioners.





- **Meat Raffle.** January 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 was a typical cold New England evening. The weather conditions did not deter people from attending our 16<sup>th</sup> Meat Raffle. We started 5 years ago on the same date (January 27, 2012) with 35 people in attendance. This year we had 60 plus friends from near and far in the church hall. Friends travelled from Central Falls, Rhode Island, New Bedford and Fall River, Massachusetts as well as East Hartford and Manchester, Connecticut (you know who you are!)

The hall was warm and festive and we enjoyed a delicious lasagna soup made by Lonnie and Sally Watson. Complimentary beverages and dessert were also available. Twelve tables represented the



months of January (Happy New Year and Snowmen), February (Valentines' Day), March (Spring and St. Patrick's Day) and April (Easter). You could take



home any "treasures" that were on your table. This insured that everyone was a WINNER!

The Meat Raffle began at 7 p.m. with Philip Kaczorowski at the microphone greeting the crowd and calling out the winning numbers



throughout the evening.

You can purchase a Meat Raffle Pass for \$20.00, which covers the entire evening. You can possibly win a meat package, a breakfast package, 2 mystery envelopes, 2 bonus bags, attendance and consolation prizes and much more.





We also have additional chances for a Penny Social with 25 gifts, Split-the- Pot, a Gift Card Raffle (donated by the Parish Committee) and a Special Raffle with 5 larger gift items.



The event was in high gear and the participants REALLY warmed up the hall with their laughter, enthusiasm and willingness to have a good time. The success of this parish fundraiser was due to

the outstanding help and support of so many including parishioners, friends of Our Saviour's and especially the younger people.

Without a doubt it was a very successful night and everyone left with a smile on their face.

Hope you can join us in the Spring on Friday April 28, 2017 for our next Meat Raffle.

***By Patricia Kaczorowski***

### **Our Saviour's Upcoming Events:**

- March 11— Lenten Retreat Day. Begins 9:30am -2:30pm.
- March 12 — Spaghetti & Meat ball Dinner and Talent Show. Begins at 11:30 after Mass.
- March 30 — Ecumenical Lenten Service combined with St. James Episcopal Church, at St. James Church, 24 Hamlet Ave in Woonsocket, RI, at 7:00pm.
- April 2—Passion Sunday Communion Breakfast at 11: 30 after the Mass.
- April 9—Palm Sunday Bake Sale(11:00am), and Easter Eggs hunt (9:00am).
- April 9 — Blessing of Oils, (at Holy Name of Jesus, So. Deerfield, MA), at 4:30pm.
- May 14—Mothers Day Coffee Hour following the Mass at 10:00 am.
- May 21 — Holy Mass with the conferring if the Sacrament of Confirmation, at 4pm.
- June 15 — NE Seniorate Corpus Christi Celebration at 4pm.

From our parishes...

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

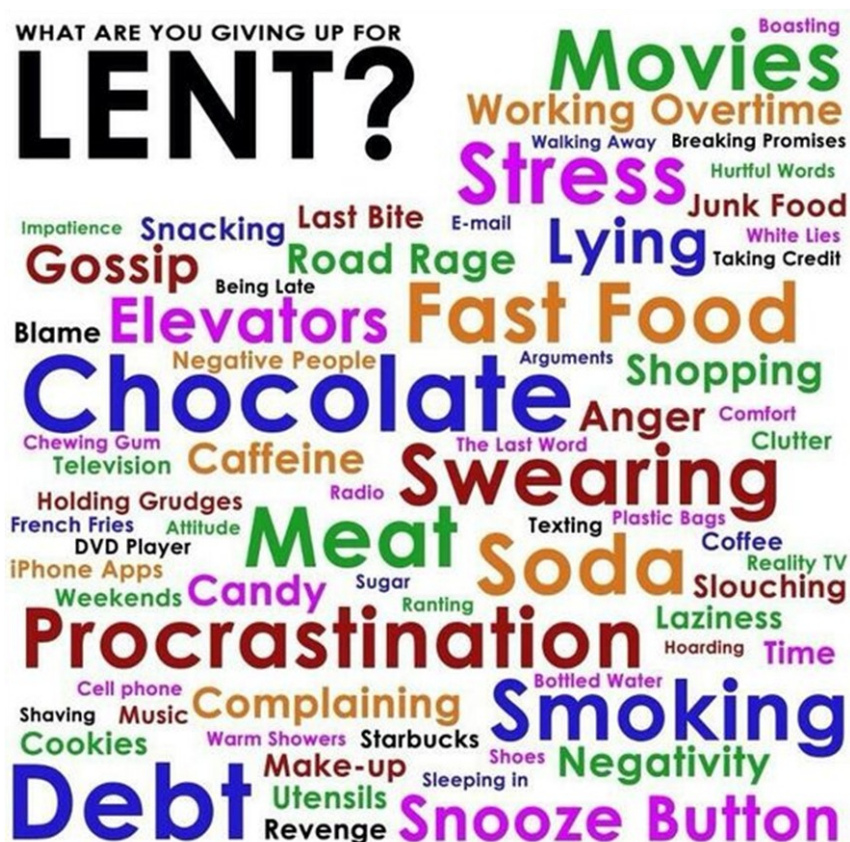
### Activities in the last three months:

- Candlelight services were held followed by fellowship and a special visitor from the North Pole.
- The Men's Club installation dinner was held at the Westwood Restaurant.
- The Ladies Adoration Society held a bake and food sale on Super Bowl Sunday. Zumba with Kelly B is being held on Monday nights with part of the proceeds going into the general church fund.
- Mass change to Saturday at 4pm and Sunday 9am is still taking place and will be discussed at the upcoming Annual meeting.

### Upcoming activities:

- The annual meeting will be taking place and all organizational reports will be available for review prior to.
- There will be a Zumbathon held Saturday March 11 from 9am to noon with all proceeds being donated to the Colon Cancer Alliance. Suggested donation admission is \$20.
- March is colorectal cancer awareness month.
- The local Girl Scout troop continues to hold their meetings at the social center.
- Lenten dinners will be starting as well as Stations of the Cross.
- This year there will be three dinners: homemade soup in bread bowls, Polish dinner and Fish dinner. For more information on the dates and times, contact Fr. Joe 562-4403.

By Kelly Burek





## From our parishes...

### Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

#### "Wreaths Across America" Ceremony at the Divine Providence Cemetery, Norwich, CT

On a cold rainy snowy Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 12:00pm, we had a "Wreaths Across America" ceremony at our cemetery honoring military veterans at the same time that other similar events were being held at Arlington National Cemetery and other cemeteries all across the world. It turned out to be such a great event that plans are already in place to participate again this coming December 2017 with this special activity. During the ceremony a proclamation was read, the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung, and seven wreaths were laid by parishioners, some of them veterans in uniform. There are always wreaths representing each branch of our armed forces as well as one for POW's and MIA's. There was a short prayer service led by Father Chris which concluded the ceremony. We had nine people who came out in spite of the inclement weather to participate. We hope to see lots more people next year.



## Parish Events:

Thanksgiving – Advent – an Interfaith Holiday Choir Concert – our cemetery “Wreaths Across America” wreath laying ceremony – Pasterka - Christmas –New Year’s – Epiphany – our annual Service of Readings and Carols and the Annual Christmas Dinner followed by a visit by Santa Claus were past events at our parish that were enjoyed by all. But the big news in southeastern Connecticut after the holidays has been the snow we have been getting this year. Three storms came each a week apart for a total of almost two feet of that beautiful fluffy white stuff.

### • Thanksgiving Dinner, November 20, 2017



The delicious dinner was prepared by Ela Chmielewska, Ewa Klos, Jane McPhail and Val Gralej.

### • Adopt A Family

For the second year in a row, the ANS Ladies led the parish to participate in the Christmas community outreach project, Adopt A Family. In Christmas spirit, our parishioners and friends donated many gifts to the family through Madonna Place INC, including clothes, toys, personal hygiene items, bed sheets, and cleaning supplies. Thank you to all of the parishioners who participated in this great project!



### • Candlelight Service and Christmas Dinner, January 8, 2017

The Rev. Christopher Rogalski, pastor of Greenville's Divine Providence Church, had to do some improvising at the church's annual candlelight service and Christmas dinner held Sunday afternoon. Almost a foot of snow fell on Norwich by early Sunday morning, which meant many congregants were still digging out and couldn't make the Polish Catholic church's traditional service, which has taken place for at least 20 years. Rather than a live choir, Rogalski had recorded performances of the well-known Christmas carols, such as "Silent Night" and "O Come All Ye Faithful" on hand.

"That's alright, something unofficial is better," Rogalski said at the start of the service. "The first time the shepherds came to Bethlehem, nothing was prepared, it was a surprise."

And that first Christmas was held outdoors in the cold, with bad-smelling animals nearby, the pastor reminded people. "We can imagine this and say how happy we are to be here," he said.

**From Norwich Bulletin:** <http://www.norwichbulletin.com/.../small-crowd-brushes-off-snow>





Our delicious Christmas dinner was prepared by Ela Chmielewska, Ewa Klos, Aga Jagora, Val Graley, Jane McPhail and Catherine Donat.

### • Healing Mass and Light Lunch

On the third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am, we have a Healing Mass followed by a delicious light lunch in our church hall. The purpose of the Healing Mass is to allow the elderly people of the church to come together in

prayer and fellowship, without needing to climb the steep stairs to Mass. In recent times this Mass has been extremely successful and regularly attended.

### • Taste of Poland & Bingo

Come by the first Friday of the month to eat and play. Have a taste of homemade Polish cuisine for low prices starting at 5PM. Bingo starts at 7PM. These events are a knockout, helping raise funds for our parish. We hope to see you there!



## • Polish cooking class and Polish language

We have been getting a lot of interest in the Polish cooking classes and language classes! We will continue them in the



spring. Dates are to be determined. Please call 860-887-2812 and leave your name and number so that we can call you back when the dates are set. Thank you!



*Submitted by Ela and Natalie Chmielewska*

## • Upcoming events and activities at Divine Providence Parish:

- SUNDAY SERVICES:** Mass at 9:00am and 12:00pm every Sunday
- HEALING SERVICES:** Mass at 11:00am every third Wednesday of the month in the church social hall
- BIBLE STUDY:** Sunday after 9:00am Mass
- FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFASTS:** Breakfast follows every First Sunday Mass
- SUNDAY SOCIAL HOURS:** Coffee and snacks after 9:00 Mass every Sunday except the first Sunday
- Lent Begins, Ash Wednesday Service:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 11:00am.
- Gorzkie Zale Lenten Services:** Wednesdays during Lent in March and April at 7:00pm.
- Annual Flea Market/Polish Kitchen/Sweet Shoppe Bakery Table Trash and Treasure Room/Silent Auction:** Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:00am to 2:00pm in the church hall. We will have some 20 area vendors of crafts, wares, and collectibles, delicious breakfast and lunch items with a Polish touch, bargains, and the famous Sweet Shoppe. New this year will be a Silent Auction.
- Annual Parish Meeting:** Sunday, March 19, after 9:00am Mass
- Palm Sunday Service, Bake Sale, and Breakfast:** Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 9:00am will be followed by the Palm Sunday breakfast and bake sale.
- EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES:** Sunday, April 16, 2017 at 6:00am, 9:00am, and 12:00pm.
- Easter Dinner:** Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 1:00pm.
- Annual Greeneville Neighborhood Clean-Up Walk:** Sunday April 30, 2017
- Mother's Day:** Sunday, May 14, 2017
- BINGO NIGHTS:** **Every first Friday of the month at 7:00pm. The Polish Kitchen is open from 5:00pm until after intermission.**
- Polish Language Classes:** Saturday afternoons, 12:00-1:00pm in the church social hall: To be scheduled. Instruction by Natalie Chmielewska.
- Polish Cooking Classes:** Saturday afternoons, 1:00-3:00pm in the church kitchen: To be scheduled. Hands-on instruction by Ela Chmielewska and other Parish Members.

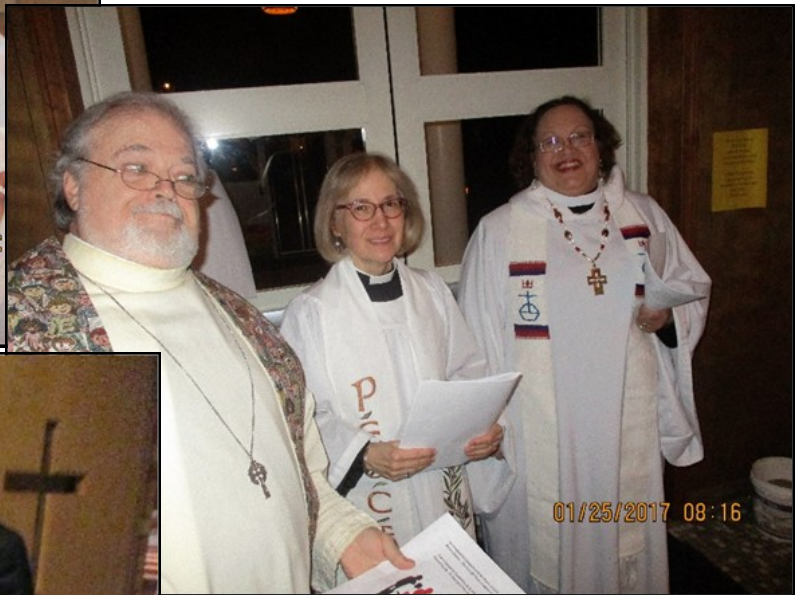
*By George Ververis*



## PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – MANCHESTER, CT

On Jan.25<sup>th</sup> Father Henry Smolinski, representing St. John the Baptist PNC parish, joined Pastor Douglas Barclay [pictured below] in his sanctuary at Concordia Lutheran Church, and Rev. Lynn Griffo, interim pastor of St. Mary's Episcopal parish, in a Service ending the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Other ecumenical clergy partaking in the Service, that the above-mentioned three clergy-persons organized, were two Roman Catholic



**Father Donnelly with Pastors Griffo  
& Rivera-Mendez.**



**Fathers Aparo, Roy & Kyere.**

priests: Fr. Robert Roy, pastor of St. Mary's parish of E. Hartford, and Fr. John Kyere, pastor of the Ghanaian Community that is also housed at St. Mary's, together with the spirited 35-member Ghanaian Choir.

Also taking part in the Service were: Rev. Persida Rivera-Mendez, pastor of the Latino community that worships weekly at the Concordia Church; Rev. Joyce Crutchfield, pastor of the Center Congregational Church in Manchester; Philip Susag, lay ecumenical representative of the town's South Methodist Church; Rev. Michael Donnelly, pastor of Compassionate Ministries of Hebron; and Rev. Michael Aparo, priest of the Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of America.





**Members of the Ghanian Choir singing in the front of the Sanctuary, and later relaxing & sharing refreshments in Concordia's fellowship hall.**

The Ghanian Choir members sitting in the front pews of the church also carried up “bricks” entitled with various divisive attitudes & activities. These were built into a “wall” on the left-side altar rail, which was dis-mantled & re-built as a cross standing on that rail, after we confessed these divisive sins & exchanged signs of peace with one another.

The Service ended with all holding candles lit from a large Christ-candle & being commissioned to bring Jesus' wall-shattering peace to the world.

***By Rev. Henry Smolinski***



**Pastor Crutchfield & Phil Susag**

## From our parishes...

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

#### • Annual Polish Food Fest

October 22 was a lovely autumn day during which we celebrated our Annual Polish Food Fest.

Hundreds of people entered our parish center, decorated with a fall motif, to partake of delicious Polish foods at our Polish eat-in kitchen or to buy foods to take home. Traffic was steady. Customers were patient.

In addition to pierogi (cabbage/sauerkraut or potato/farmers cheese) and gołąbki, kapusta and kielbasa guests could buy Polish

casserole, cabbage or pickle soup, as well as babka, rozetki, chrust, pączki. American favorites were also available such as carrot cake and apple pies.

Numbers were drawn every half hour for prizes donated by parishioners and friends of St. Casimir's. A raffle for lottery tickets was drawn at the end of the day.

All in all, the day was a successful one and we hope to sponsor another Polish food fest in October, 2017.



**Agnieszka, Karina and Amelia Tenus dressed in their finest.**



**Breads and baked goods.**



**Nancy Picanso describes soups/stews to customer**

#### • Homecoming 2016

Homecoming was held on December 3 and began with the star being brought forth in a darkened hall by Christopher and Amelia Tenus, Emma Ford-Hunt, Heath Pelletier and Patricia Lukaszewicz with the playing of "O Holy Night" by Rachel Quirbach via Skype. Welcome was extended by co-chairmen Robert Hunt and Bert Quirbach. A prayer was offered by Father Tenus who also pronounced the blessing of the food. The opłatek was shared by all guests followed by the pierogi appetizer. The head table, with Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski, Father Henryk and Renata Wos and family, Father Pawel and Monica Lukaszewicz and daughter, and Father Andrzej & Agnieszka Tenus and family proceeded to the buffet





**Bob Hunt introducing the Elves of the Year: Dr. Robert & Diane Quirbach**



**Father Andrew and Diane Quirbach accompany children in singing.**



**Santa Claus pays a visit to our hall.**

Children of SOCL were introduced by Karina and "Listen to the Story" (solos on verses by Jonasz Tenus,



**Guests enjoying pierogi hors d'oeuvres.**



**Linda Hedrick and Phyllis Hunt take a break from kitchen work.**

Christopher Tenus and Emma Ford-Hunt), "Rudolph" and Jingle Bells. Ian Ford-Hunt and Karina Tenus sang "Cicha Noc", and were joined by other children with "Silent Night".

Patricia Lukaszewicz, age 6, daughter of Father Pawel and Monica of Chicopee, MA, sang a song she composed. She was accompanied by her father on keyboard.

The Folcik sisters sang "Śliczna Panienka".



Father Andrew and Bob Hunt presented the 2016 Elf of the Year award to Dr. Bert and Diane Quirbach in recognition and appreciation of their outstanding service and contributions to our parish and especially our youth.

We were then visited by Santa Claus who appeared on stage and presented gifts to the children/young people in attendance compliments of our ANS.

Bishop Sobiechowski was called upon to deliver his remarks.

Father Tenus led a short sing-a-long after which he pronounced the benediction. "Silent Night" was sung in unison and everyone was wished a safe journey home and invited to come join us in 2017.

***By Janice Klimczak***

### **TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF PARISH ACTIVITIES:**

<b>February/March</b>	<b>Collection for "Jacob's Well" (sox, tee shirts) a facility for veterans (ANS sponsored)</b>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday-beginning of Lent. Mass at 9 am and 7 pm with imposition of ashes. Lenten Services, Fridays, 7 pm.</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat, St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA 9:30 am-2:30 pm (ANS will sponsor lunch)</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Presentation of Financial Report/Parish committee meeting</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Mailing to the sick/shut-ins (ANS)</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Meal in the Upper Room, St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA (ANS will assist)</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Palm Sunday-TOP Cake Sale</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Holy Thursday, Mass at 6 pm</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Good Friday Mass of the Presanctified 10 am; Divine Mercy novena, 3 pm</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>Holy Saturday, Mass at 10 am followed by preparation of church by ANS.</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>Easter Sunday Procession and Mass, 9 am</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>After Easter "Food For Thought" prayerful lunch with speaker, invitation to community to participate,</b>
<b>Mid April</b>	<b>Church property and Cemetery clean up</b>

## National and Diocesan Events and Programs:

### **Tenth Ecumenical Dialogue Meeting Between the Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC) and the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)**



Representatives of the PNCC and the ACNA met for the Tenth Ecumenical Dialogue Meeting at St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford TX on February 15-16, 2017. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop John Mack, Father Senior Robert Nemkovich, Father Senior Augustus Sicard, SMOP and Father John Kowalczyk, were in attendance representing the PNCC.

Bishop Ray Sutton, Bishop Richard Lipka, Bishop Keith Ackerman, Bishop Jack Iker and Father Thomas Vece, FSJ were in attendance representing the ACNA. Papers were presented concerning Apostolic Succession, the Synods of the Church, and the Unity of the Church. The Eleventh Ecumenical Dialogue Meeting is scheduled for September 18-20, 2017 in Scranton, PA.

## Upcoming Events:

# LENTEN RETREATS

NORTHEAST SENIORATE  
EASTERN DIOCESE – PNCC

SATURDAY – MARCH 11, 2017  
OUR SAVIOUR'S PARISH – WOONSOCKET, RI

SATURDAY – MARCH 18, 2017  
ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH – LOWELL, MA

BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M.  
ENDS BY 2:30 P.M.  
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED



*COME SPEND TIME IN PRAYER, MEDITATION  
AND WORSHIP  
ON THE SALVIFIC PASSION AND DEATH OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST*

*RSVP BY MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> TO: RobNem21@aol.com*

## **DISTRICT 3 PNU EASTER RAFFLE**

The Easter Raffle (to benefit District 3 of the Polish National Union) will take place on Sunday, April 2, 2017 immediately following the 10:30 AM Holy Mass at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI. There will be four (4) \$25.00 cash prizes selected.

Tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00 and 13 for \$10.00. Your generous support of this District's fund raiser is greatly appreciated.

Checks in payment for the Easter Raffle tickets should be made payable to "District 3 PNU".

Checks and ticket stubs should be returned to District 3 PNU c/o Blessed Trinity Parish, 37 Winthrop Street, Fall River, MA 02721.

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

Fraternally yours,

**Maryann Zarek**

**District 3 Director**



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **66<sup>th</sup> Annual ANS Convention**

Saturday, May 20, 2017

### **Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH**

Convention will begin with Mass at 10 am followed by an uplifting program, striving to work on the directives of the Future Direction Commission

Your officers and the sisters of Holy Trinity Cathedral ANS cordially invite you all to join us!



# EASTERN DIOCESE ACOLYTE RETREAT

MONDAY – JUNE 26, 2017

OUR SAVIOUR PARISH – WOONSOCKET, RI

***“COMMITTED TO SERVE IN OUR HOLY CHURCH”***

*BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M. WITH HOLY MASS AND ENDS AT LINCOLN WOODS PARK*

*INTERACTIVE SESSIONS ON OUR PNCC, BEING CHOSEN AND SERVING WITH REVERENCE*



**Time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with your fellow  
servers - Plus a trip to Lincoln Woods Park**

**Open to Altar Servers of our diocese – registration is just \$10**

**Deadline to register is June 20<sup>th</sup>**



*To register or for additional information contact:*

*Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich (508) 672-4854 [RobNem21@aol.com](mailto:RobNem21@aol.com)*

# **"COMMITMENT"**



## **4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAMPOREE**

**OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE  
OF THE PNCC**

# **JULY 7-8-9<sup>TH</sup> 2017**

**OUR SAVIOUR PNC CHURCH**

**500 SMITHFIELD RD, WOONSOCKET, RI**

**COST: \$15.00 PER PARTICIPANT**

**DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2017**

**CONTACT:**

**MR. MICHAEL KUCHAR (401) 473-4121**

**FR. ADAM CZARNECKI (413) 584-0133**

**FR. ROBERT KOERBER (413) 530-8575**





**NUC 25<sup>th</sup> Music Workshop and 34<sup>th</sup> General Convention**  
**July 26-28, 2017**

Hosted by the Frederick Chopin Choir  
Holy Trinity Cathedral  
166 Pearl Street  
Manchester, NH

Join us and refresh your personal and parish music ministry with new ideas for song and voice! Convention meetings, workshop sessions and concert will be held at the beautifully restored Holy Trinity Cathedral. Accommodations can be booked at La Quinta Inn and Suites, 21 Front Street, Manchester, NH, 603-669-5400.

*Workshop topics include:*

- Bring your best voice to church...developing your singing voice and keeping it healthy.
- Arranging and adapting music for your choir
- Incorporating instruments in worship
- Choral reading of "user friendly" anthems
- Introducing new music by PNC composers

**Come and share your voice and ideas with fellow  
choir members and musicians. Need more information? Contact Karen  
Sobiechowski at 603-622-4524 or [ksobiechowski@yahoo.com](mailto:ksobiechowski@yahoo.com)**





## FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

### Assignments:

- No new assignments have been made for this period.

### Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- None scheduled

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

- Saturday, March 4 - Eastern Diocese ANS Executive Board Meeting -  
Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA - 11:30 AM
- Monday, March 6 - Eastern Diocese Council Strategic Planning Sub-Committee  
Teleconference - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 14 - National School of Christian Living Commission Teleconference
- Sunday, March 19 - Eastern Diocese Commission on Scouting Meets  
Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA - 3:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 22 - Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference  
St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA - 10:00 AM
- Thursday, March 30 - Eastern Diocese Liturgy Commission Meeting  
Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI - 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, April 19 - District Three Polish National Union of America  
Teleconference - 7:00 PM
- Monday, April 24 - PNCC Bishops Conference - National Church Center  
Scranton, PA
- Tuesday, April 25 and Wednesday April 26 - PNCC Supreme Council  
Meeting, National Church Center – Scranton, PA
- Tuesday, May 9 and Wednesday, May 10 - Polish National Catholic /  
Roman Catholic Dialogue Meeting - Scranton, PA



- Tuesday, May 23 - Thursday May 25 - National Liturgical Commission Meeting, Scranton, PA
- Saturday, June 3 - Eastern Diocese Council Meeting - St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA

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

- Saturday, March 11 - Northeast Seniorate South Lenten Retreat -  
Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI - 09:30 AM - 02:30 PM
- Saturday, March 18 - Northeast Seniorate North Lenten Retreat  
St. Casimir's Parish - Lowell, MA - 09:30 AM - 02:30 PM
- Tuesday, April 11 - Eastern Diocese Chrism Mass  
Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield, MA - 04:30 PM

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

- Saturday, April 29 - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - St. Joseph's of Stratford Parish, Stratford, CT
- Friday, May 5 - Sunday, May 7 - National Mission and Evangelism Workshop  
Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, NJ
- Saturday, May 13 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination Celebration for Father Henry  
Smolinski - St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester, CT
- Friday, May 19 - Sunday May 21 - Young Men's Society of the Resurrection Bowling  
Tournament - Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Wallington, NJ
- Saturday, May 20 - Eastern Diocese Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
Convention - Holy Trinity Cathedral - Manchester, NH



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

## Stanisław Barańczak

*"Writing poetry is perhaps nothing more than trying to play a straight man to that rambling, rambunctious, never-to-be-interrupted, always-on-a-roll, stand-up comic, the world."*

Stanisław Barańczak urodził się 13 listopada 1946 r. w Poznaniu. Zdobył zarówno tytuł magistra jak i doktora w dziedzinie filologii na Uniwersytecie Adama Mickiewicza, gdzie poznał swą żonę Annę Brylka. Barańczak rozpoczął publikować poezję w połowie lat 60-tych. W latach jego wykładów na Uniwersytecie A. Mickiewicza, rząd podniósł ceny podstawowych towarów, co spowodowało fale strajków i protestów Czerwiec 1976. Barańczak był współzałożycielem Komitetu Obrony Robotników wspierających represjonowanych. Jego działalność polityczna kosztowała go pracę, a jego publikacje zostały oficjalnie zakazane. Wraz z powstaniem Solidarności Barańczak odzyskał stanowisko wykładowcy, jednak już

wcześniej Harvard zaproponował mu pracę na wydziale języków słowiańskich i literatury. Po trzech latach starań o wizę, Barańczak wyjechał w 1981 r. do Stanów Zjednoczonych. Wykładał na Uniwersytecie Harvarda do czasu, gdy stopniowe nasilenie choroby Parkinsona zmusiło go do przejścia na emeryturę pod koniec lat 90-tych.

Barańczak pisał o polityce Europy Wschodniej zarówno w prozie i poezji. Jego utwory zajmują się skrzyżowaniem literatury i polityki z wnikiwością i humorem. Wpływ na jego poezję miały też jego przekłady. Według Clare Cavanagh, byłej studentki z którą tłumaczył noblistkę Wisławę Szymborską, Barańczaka "tłumaczył wszystkich. Od metafizyków poprzez Boba Dylana do Ogdena Nasha." Barańczak przetłumaczył na polski większość dzieł Szekspira, Roberta Herricka, Johna Donne i Roberta Frosta, a także wiele piosenek i poezji humorystycznej.

Stanisław Barańczak zmarł 26 grudnia 2014 r. w swoim domu w Newton, MA, USA.



Stanisław Barańczak with the family after the ceremony granting him the Honorary Doctorate of the Jagiellonian University in November 2006 - with his wife Anna, daughter Anna and son Michael

Stanisław Barańczak was born November 13, 1946 in Poznan, Poland. He earned both his MA and PhD in philology at Adam Mickiewicz University, where he also met his wife, Anna Brylka. Barańczak began publishing poetry in the mid-1960s. He was teaching at Mickiewicz University when the government raised the price of basic goods, a move that precipitated the June 1976 protests. Barańczak helped found the Workers Defense Committee in support of those injured or persecuted because of the riots. His political activities cost him his job, and his work was officially banned. When the political

movement Solidarity emerged, Barańczak regained his teaching position; however, Harvard had by then offered him a job in the department of Slavic languages and literature. After three years of being denied a visa, Barańczak moved to the United States in 1981. He taught at Harvard until his gradually worsening Parkinson's disease forced him to retire in the late 1990s.

Barańczak wrote about the politics of Eastern Europe in both prose and poetry. His works treated the intersection of literature and politics with insight and humor. Barańczak's work as a translator also influenced his poetry and poetics. According to Clare Cavanagh, a former student with whom he translated Nobel Prize-winner Wisława Szymborska, Barańczak "translated everyone. The metaphysicals to Bob Dylan to Ogden Nash." Barańczak translated into Polish much of Shakespeare, Robert Herrick, John Donne, and Robert Frost as well as song lyrics and light verse.

Stanisław Barańczak died on December 26, 2014 at his home in Newton, MA.

### Trzej królowie

Lechowi Dymarskiemu

Przyjdą pewnie po Nowym Roku.

Jak zwykle, wcześniej rano.

Kleszczami dzwonka wyciągnięty za głowę z pościeli,  
oszołomiony jak noworodek,  
otworzysz drzwi. Błysznie  
gwiazda legitymacji.

Trzech. W jednym z nich rozpoznasz  
z bezmyślnym zdumieniem (jaki ten świat  
jest mały) swego kolegę z ławy szkolnej.  
Od tamtych czasów prawie wcale się nie zmienił,  
zapuszczył tylko wąsy,  
no, może przytył trochę.

Wejdą. Błysznie złoto ich zegarków (jaki  
ten świat jest szary), dym z ich papierosów  
zasnuje pokój kadzidlana wonią.



### The Three Magi

To Lech Dymarski

They will probably come just after the New Year.

As usual, early in the morning.

The forceps of the doorbell will pull you out by the head  
from under the bedclothes; dazed as a newborn baby,  
you'll open the door. The star of an ID  
will flash before your eyes.

Three men. In one of them you'll recognize  
with sheepish amazement (isn't this a small  
world) your schoolmate of years ago.  
Since that time he'll hardly have changed,  
only grown a mustache,  
perhaps gained a little weight.

They'll enter. The gold of their watches will glitter (isn't  
this a gray dawn), the smoke from their cigarettes  
will fill the room with a fragrance like incense.



Brak mirry do kompletu - pomyślisz półprzrytomnie,  
wsuwając piętą pod tapczan książkę, której nie powinni znaleźć -  
co to właściwie takiego ta mirra,  
trzeba by kiedyś nareszcie  
sprawdzić. Pan  
pójdzie z nami. Pójdiesz  
z nimi. Jaki ten śnieg jest biały.  
Jaki ten fiat jest czarny.  
Jaki ten świat był ogromny.

All that's missing is myrrh, you'll think half-consciously,  
while with your heel you're shoving under the couch the book they mustn't find -  
what is this myrrh, anyway,  
you'd have to finally look it up  
someday. You'll come  
with us, sir. You'll go  
with them. Isn't this a white snow.  
Isn't this a black Fiat.  
Wasn't this a vast world.

Trans. Stanisław Barańczak and Clare Cavanagh

### Jeżeli porcelana, to wyłącznie taka

Jeżeli porcelana, to wyłącznie taka  
której nie żal pod butem tragarza lub gąsienicą czołgu;  
jeżeli fotel, to niezbyt wygodny, tak aby  
nie było przykro podnieść się i odejść;  
jeżeli odzież, to tyle, ile można unieść w walizce,  
jeżeli książki, to te, które można unieść w pamięci,  
jeżeli plany, to takie, by można o nich zapomnieć,  
kiedy nadejdzie czas następnej przeprowadzki  
na inną ulicę, kontynent, etap dziejowy  
lub świat:

kto ci powiedział, że wolno ci się przyzwyczajać?  
kto ci powiedział, że cokolwiek jest na zawsze?  
czy nikt ci nie powiedział, że nie będziesz nigdy  
w świecie  
czuł się jak u siebie w domu?



Mural with poem  
Poznań, Poland

### If porcelain, then only the kind

If porcelain, then only the kind  
you won't miss under the shoe of a mover or the tread of a tank;  
if a chair, then not too comfortable, lest  
there be regret in getting up and leaving;  
if clothing, then just so much as can fit in a suitcase,  
if books, then those which can be carried in the memory,  
if plans, then those which can be overlooked  
when the time comes for the next move  
to another street, continent, historical period  
or world:

who told you that you were permitted to settle in?  
who told you that this or that would last forever?  
did no one ever tell you that you will never  
in the world  
feel at home in the world?

Trans. by Frank Kujawinski

### To nie jest rozmowa na telefon

Więc przypuśćmy, że tak, ale to nie jest rozmowa  
na telefon, wiesz, nasze uszy  
mają czułych słuchaczy, zatem przełożmy to na  
język obcy im i nam, i nie mów "tak",  
póki nie przełożysz;

więc powiedzmy, że tak, ale to nie jest  
wymowa na czasie, wiesz, nasze  
ściany mają czule uszy, zatem odłożmy to  
na potem, na zapas, i nie mów  
"tak", póki nie przeczekasz;

więc zgódźmy się, że tak, ale to nie  
jest umowa na zawsze, wiesz,  
nasze dusze mają cienkie ściany, zatem załóżmy  
to na razie, na chwilę, i nie  
mów "tak", póki nie przekreślisz;

więc niech będzie, że nie, ale to  
nie jest odmowa na serio,  
wiesz, nasi słuchacze mają wrażliwe dusze, zatem  
załóżmy na niby ten protest, i  
nie mów "nie", póki nie przeprosisz.



### Pan tu nie stał

Pan tu nie stał, zwracam panu uwagę,  
że nigdy nie stał pan za nami  
murem, na stanowisku naszym też  
pan nie stał, już nie mówiąc, że na naszym czele  
nie stał pan nigdy, pan tu nie stał, panie,  
nas na to nie stać, żeby pan tu stał  
obiema nogami na naszej ziemi, ona stoi  
przed panem otworem, a pan co,  
stoi pan sobie na uboczu  
wspólnego grobu, panie tam jest koniec,  
nie stój pan w miejscu, nie stawiaj się pan, stawaj  
pan w pąsach na szarym końcu, w końcu  
znajdzie się jakieś miejsce i dla pana



By Rev. Adam Czarnecki

### This Is Not a Conversation for the Telephone

Well let's assume it's yes, but this is not a conversation  
for the telephone, you know, our ears  
have vigilant listeners, so let's just prepare it in  
a language foreign to them and us, and don't say "yes"  
before you translate it;

well let's admit it's yes, but this is not  
convenient for the moment, you know, our  
walls have sensitive ears, so let's just preserve it  
for later, keep it and don't say  
"yes" before you wait it out;

well let's agree it's yes but this is not  
a condition forever, you know,  
our souls have thin walls, so let's just presume  
it for today, for a while, and don't  
say "yes" before you delete it;

well it must be no, but this  
is not a conclusion for a real,  
you know, our listeners have sensitive souls, so let's  
pretend for now that we protest, and  
don't say "no" before you apologize.

### You didn't stand here, sir

Trans. by Valeria Wasilewski

You didn't stand here, sir, I warn you, sir,  
that you never stood with us  
together, in our positions you didn't  
either, sir, not to mention, that on our front  
you never did, you didn't stand here, sir,  
we cannot stand you anymore standing here, sir,  
with both legs on our ground – it stands  
open before you and you what, sir,  
you stand by yourself on the border  
of a common grave, sir, it's the end there,  
don't stand around sir, don't stand your ground, stand  
corrected at the gray end, in the end  
there will be a place for you too, sir

Trans. by Seweryn Górczak

## 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. Randolph Calvo, Pastor (413)665-2129	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	

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<b>Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament</b> Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak	<b>United Choirs</b> Rev. Krzysztof Rogalski
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<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> Rev. Randolph Calvo	<b>Lay Ministries</b> Rev. Adam Czarnecki

## Other Clergy serving in the Eastern Diocese

Rev. Robert Koerber-Phone: (413) 530-8575  
Rev. Mr. Thomas Walsh, Deacon-Phone: (860) 417 - 9888



## *A Litany for Lent*



We fast from judging others,  
but feast on patience.  
We fast from apparent differences,  
but feast on unity of all life.  
We fast from words that pollute,  
but feast on words that affirm.  
We fast from complaining,  
but feast on appreciation.  
We fast from bitterness and anger,  
but feast on forgiveness and mercy.  
We fast from discouragement,  
but feast on hope.  
We fast from suspicion,  
but feast on trust.  
We fast from idle gossip,  
but feast on purposeful silence.  
We fast from problems that overwhelm,  
but feast on prayer that strengthens.

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

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