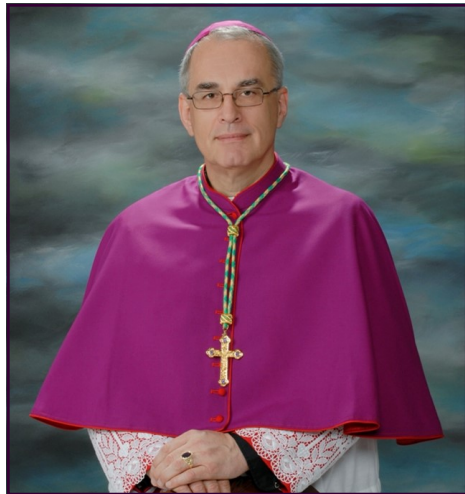


THE MESSENGER

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



DON'T GIVE UP ON GOD

"...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.."

Isaiah 41: 10, NASB

Christians are a believing people and our faith is grounded in hope. From the very beginning when Christ called His Apostles we see Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John leaving nets and work behind and stepping out in faith to follow Jesus simply because He said, "Come, follow me." (Mark 1:16). Philip cried "You are the Son of God...the King of Israel" just because Jesus said that He saw him under a fig tree (John 1:49).

Throughout history people made commitments to be Christians and then stepped out in faith, not knowing what their future would be like. Imagine all the thousands and thousands who went out to evangelize the world. They knew of Paul's experiences of shipwrecks, stoning, beatings, imprisonment in his evangelistic journeys. But they also knew that with everything he experienced, St. Paul never lost faith. He never gave up on God. In fact he wrote to the Church in Philippi while he was in prison, *"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the sharing of His sufferings by becoming like Him in His death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."* (Philippians 3:10-12)

This type of zeal inspired Christian men and women over the past two thousand years to step out in faith trusting that, no matter what they would experience, that God would never abandon them. Oceans were crossed and missionaries took the Gospel message to the New World and faced death by those who chose to reject the Word. Missionaries like Pere Marquette who evangelized the Great Lakes area and the lands adjacent the Mississippi River, went forward knowing that God was with them.

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In our own Church's experience, Bishop Hodur and the organizers of the Polish National Catholic Church never gave up on God. They trusted that God would be with them blessing their efforts and the Polish National Catholic Church came into being. Bishop Hodur wrote: ***"According to Christ, man, as a child of God, is internally in constant contact with the source of his life, and from this unity is derived his happiness, power, peace and satisfaction. It is not enough to only lean upon this action of God's grace. One must cooperate with it. One must first of all realize this relationship. It is necessary to believe and to trust. One must love everyone and everything and constantly go forward and closer to the goal of the earthly pilgrimage, complete unity with God."*** (Hodur: A Compilation of Selected Translations, revised-ed. Theodore Zawistowski - c. 1990, Scranton, PA)

With this idea of always going forward (*zawsze naprzód*) the laity of the Church refused to give up on God, refused to doubt His constant support. They mortgaged their homes in times of poverty and no personal security and gave all they had to build parish churches. And they built them with the idea that they would also be places of worship not only for themselves, but for the generations that would follow.

We stand at the beginning of Lent, and for Lent to be meaningful, it requires more than just giving up ...candy, a movie, a dinner out. While these actions are commendable, they hardly meet what Christ calls us to do as our Lenten witness. Jesus said *"If any want to be my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."* (Matthew 16:24-25).

With everything I have cited above I still marvel that Christians, Polish National Catholics, will say "We can't do it" "It can't be done." "Who is going to do it?" "We can't afford it."; when they are faced with challenges that are difficult.

Paul wrote to the Hebrews that ***"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"*** (Hebrews 11:1). Things may appear difficult, perhaps impossible. But with **God all things are possible**. The most difficult times a family, a parish, a people may face, will result in the glorification of God, the building up of His Church and the proclamation of the Gospel. Only one thing is required: **Faith!**

I accepted the consecration of the Church to serve as a bishop knowing full well that the Church is facing a declining membership, an increasingly secular world, and people who have given up on God. But if history is any teacher we know that God has never abandoned His people. He is always present if we place all our faith in Him and reach out. Peter walked on water until he doubted. But as he was drowning Jesus reached out his hand and lifted him up despite his lack of faith. Peter learned and became one of the greatest of all the Apostles.

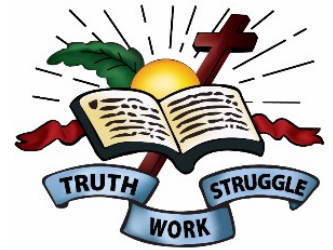
As we approach Lent I want to encourage all of you. No matter what the difficulty, no matter what situation life may place you in, no matter how difficult things may look for you... for your family... for your parish... for the Church; remember the words of the Psalmist: *"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."* (Psalm 43:5)

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 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 150th 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 14th 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

Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council Polish National Catholic Church

February, 2018

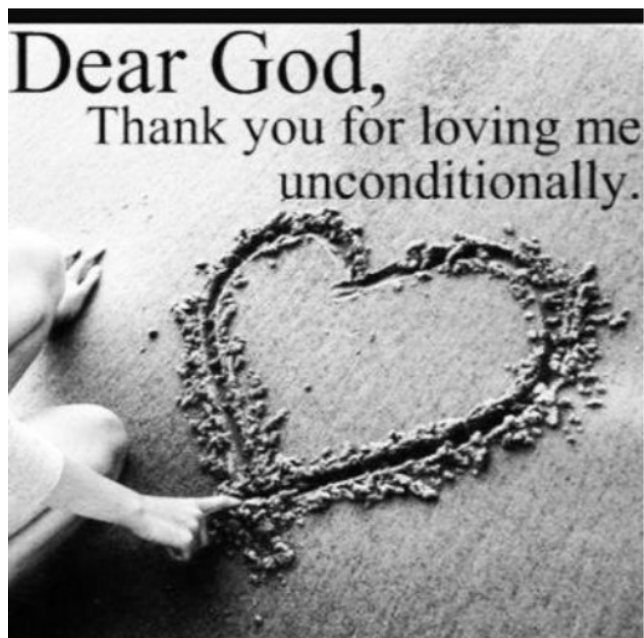
Dear Faithful of our Holy Church,

As we continue this Year of the Family across our Holy Polish National Catholic Church we focus this month on Unconditional Family Love. A special thanks to Rev. Fr. Scott Lill for preparing the message this month.



The family was the crowning accomplishment of God's initial work of Creation. In creating man and women, the Lord established the family as the foundation of all human society, and He endowed it with a profound dignity that far surpassed that of all other creatures. Bearing his own image and likeness and being commissioned together to rule and serve the rest of creation, that first family, however, cooperatively chose to disobey God's command and strayed from the path of righteousness, thus incurring the consequences of sin, many of the worst of which are glaringly demonstrated today in the collective brokenness of families.

Unconditional love
doesn't mean you
have to
unconditionally
accept bad
behaviors.



considered.

But God did not give up on the family! To the contrary, it was through the cooperation of a particular family—the Holy Family of Nazareth—that God enacted his plan for our Salvation. God redeemed the family unit by becoming a member of one and, in doing so, elevated it to a graced status far greater than it had had in the beginning and bestowing on it a new and exalted mission. Just as the Holy Family was the instrument by which our Redeemer entered the world and was prepared for his saving mission, so now for Christians, each family is the instrument for the sanctification of its members, who all recognize that they have a need for something that none of the others can provide and a destiny that reaches beyond the bounds of their earthly union. In truth, the family is the first means we are given to help us get to heaven. Therefore, every aspect of family life must focus on this. It is within this context that any consideration of unconditional family love must be

Many people think that unconditional love means that family members must accept and support whatever the others choose to do. If what we have already stated is true, however, then this clearly cannot be the case.



Unconditional love between family members does *not* mean that I must stand idly by as you are tempted to sin or start becoming enamored by the ways of the fallen world. It does *not* mean that I will passively allow you to turn your back on the Gospel of Jesus and the teachings of his Church to wander off into the fog of falsehood. It does *not* mean that I am bound to let you walk away from God and his Church by straying into a life of habitual sin. It does *not* mean that I must remain silent should you, even unknowingly or under the power of some external influence, forsake your baptismal dignity. In truth, none of this would be love at all.

Unconditional family love *does* mean that I will willingly overlook your imperfections even as I continue to challenge you to grow in holiness a little more each day. It *does* mean that I will always forgive your sinful failings from yesterday while helping you repent today and calling you to even greater virtue tomorrow. It *does* mean that I will always seek you when you go astray and do my best to gently lead you back to God in the Church, reminding you that you are a child of the Eternal Father, a living temple of the Holy Spirit and an heir to the Kingdom of Heaven through Jesus.

Each family member must have a humble awareness of the mission entrusted to them by God Himself when they became members of that family. Each must be willing to embrace their unique roles therein, while also looking at the others—spouse to spouse, parent to child and even child to parent—and promising this:

I will always love you enough to willingly lay down my life for your good despite your sinfulness. I will always love you enough to push you to become a more authentic and faithful Disciple of our Lord and to open yourself to the transforming power of God's grace, even when you don't feel like it. I will always love you enough to challenge you to work on becoming a radiant icon of the living God for the whole world to see, even when you don't exactly look the part. Pushing you a little closer to Heaven each and every day, I will always love you with unconditional love as it is understood in the light of the Gospel. In short, I will always love you like Jesus loves you.

From Our Parishes ...

Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA

Busy Times at Blessed Trinity Parish



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. 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 parish youth and a few 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.

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 in our community.



Blessed Trinity has also committed to make a difference in Suicide awareness and prevention. The parish hosted a community forum on PTSD on January 20th. This training helped those attending identify signs of PTSD and various resources and treatment options were given.

On Sunday January 21st our parish held

their annual Pancake Breakfast for the benefit of our parish Scholarship Committee. Thanks to Jack, Pam, Chris and Steve for their wonderful efforts. Our youth enjoyed Patriots cup cakes prior to the AFC Championship game with Tom Brady.



Our annual commitment to the Souper Bowl of Caring was again made this year. Another incredible drive with 250 hundred of cans of soup collected. On this Sunday throats were blessed remembering St. Blaise. We were also excited to display last year's Patriots Superbowl Trophy to all gathered. Patriots cupcakes were enjoyed by all at coffee hour. 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 17, 2017 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 cele-



brate 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 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 in the Central Falls schools - pictured is Ed Paluch dropping them off. We also participated in the Souper Bowl for Caring on Feb. 4th - putting the teachings of our Lord into action to help those who need it. We hope to see many of you on May 5th as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our parish.

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



From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



• 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 children from four 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.

By Sally Watson



• SOCL Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, January 14, 2018, 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 men(a little bit older parishioners) 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 Christmas carols.

At the conclusion of the play all together sang Happy Birthday to Jesus.. After the play, Father Henryk blessed the opiatek and the food. After sharing wishes with each other all enjoyed the many different foods and desserts made by our parishioners.



• Our Saviour's Parish Meat Raffle

Approximately 70 people filled the church hall on Friday evening January 26, 2018 for our Meat Raffle. The air was filled with the delicious aroma of Chef Lonnie Watson's popular LASAGNA SOUP. Lonnie was presented with a bacon motif apron as a Thank You for all his hard work. A complimentary light supper was served along with fresh Italian bread donated by Charlie and Katherine Caranci. Also, a very tempting homemade dessert table and beverage station rounded out the meal. Christine Kozlik was the "Hostess with the most-est" as she manned this popular spot. Edmund Fox and Gail Surowiec sold \$20.00 Meat Raffle Passes to the patrons.



Thirteen tables were set-up and they were decorated for the months of January, February, March and April. At the end of the evening you could take home all the “freebies” on your table.

Ed Surowiec encouraged people to try their luck at Split-the-Pot. The winner for the evening received \$96.00. Ed also sold tickets for our Gift Card Raffle. There were 16 gift cards that were purchased and donated by members of the Parish Committee. At the same table there were 5 more raffle prizes: An Italian dinner basket, a Lion King Easter Basket, a Salt Meditation



Lamp, a 1-pound bag of Pistachio nuts and a decorative Easter bunny. These raffles created a lot of excitement.

In addition to the 10 Meat Prizes, we had Mystery Bags (2) and Mystery Envelopes (2). We had 10 Breakfast Packages. The contents were 1 package bacon, 1 package English Muffins and 1 dozen eggs. For this raffle, the 10 dozen eggs were generously donated by Christine Scoggins of Blackstone, Massachusetts who enjoys attending our Meat Raffle with her family. A Penny Social Table with 25 prizes was part of the evening too. Zachary Kaczorowski, grandson of Philip and Patricia Kaczorowski, was the ticket seller for that raffle.

The crowd was greeted by master of ceremonies, Philip Kaczorowski. He manned the microphone and called the “lucky” numbers to our attentive listeners throughout the evening. The Rowdy Table returned (you know who you are) and everyone enjoyed a fun-filled with evening.

We had about 10 new people joining us in addition to our regular crowd. Our pastor Father Henryk Wos his wife Renata and daughters, Patrycja and Sara and many parishioners were also present. We had many helpers throughout the evening including Shelby and Kate. The clean up crew always amazes me. In no time at all the church hall and kitchen are returned to order and ready for the next church function. It's a wonderful 2-hour event and as we advertise- everyone goes home a **WINNER!**

Hope to see you at our next Meat Raffle on Friday April 27, 2018 and bring a friend.

By Patricia Kaczorowski

From our parishes...

St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA

WORKSHOP – POLISH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



St. Valentine's parish sponsored a workshop on how to make Polish Christmas Ornaments including 3D Wycinanki Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 10 a.m. to noon in the parish hall. The workshop director was Susan Urban, M.Ed., Polish Art and Culture Specialist. Ms. Urban gave a brief lecture about the ornaments and provided instruction on how to make three ornaments (Star, bell and 3D wycinanki). The star was made with white paper; others were made with the colorful Christmas paper.



Each workshop participant made their ornaments and all were pleased with their creations. We all had a great time working and socializing and are looking forward to another workshop in the Spring to learn how to make Pisanki for Easter.

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
- ♦ **ZAPUSTY AT ST. VALENTINE'S CHURCH** — **Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm**
- ♦ **POLISH DINNER** — **Sunday, May 20, 2017 at 12:00 noon** — St. Valentine's Parish. For tickets call the Rectory Office at 413-584-0133

POLSKIE KOŁĘDY SING ALONG – ST. VALENTINE’S CHURCH “AN UPLIFTING EVENT”



St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church and the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton, Massachusetts celebrated the Christmas Season with a concert of Polish Carols. The event was held January 7, 2018 and hosted by St. Valentine's Church. With twenty lead singers and well over one hundred guests, the Annual Polskie Koledy Sing Along featured twenty-one traditional Polish Christmas Carols and

Pastoralki. Some of the selections included: “Cicha noc”, “Wśród nocnej ciszy”, and “Śliczna Panienka”, “Przy onej górze”, “Dzisiaj w Betlejem”, “Oj Maluśki, Maluśki”, “Mędrzy świata, monarchowie”, “Pastuszkowie bracia mili”, “Do szopy, hej pastarze”, “Narodził się Jezus w stajni” 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. In addition, the program included a live Nativity scene portrayed by Francis Martin (Joseph), Laurie Smarz (Mary), Lucy Karieva (Angel), George Smarz, Isaac Scott and Nancy Slusarski (3 Kings), Dennis Daniels (Shepherd). 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. Rounding out the musical ensemble was Shelly Kusnierz on Flute and Peter Gibowicz on Accordion.

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”.

This year's event remembered Barbara (Rodak) Wilda and Edward Jablonski, Polskie Koledy choir members who recently passed away. May they rest in peace.

Rev. Robert Koerber, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield 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 2019 Polskie Koledy Sing Along scheduled for January 6, 2019.

by Krysia Newman

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT

Congratulations to Mr. Justin JD Daviault

On Friday, February 9, 2018, at 5pm Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT hosted the solemn Mass with the rite of tonsure and the conferral of Minor Orders to candidate to deaconate Mr. Justin JD Daviault.

The liturgy of the Holy Orders was preceded by the blessing of the cassock before the Mass. During the holy Mass, after the entrance hymn, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski conferred to the candidate the rite of Tonsure, (symbolic haircut) which symbolizes religious devotion and humility as well as the renunciation of worldly things. It was followed by the Surplice investiture. The candidate was clothed by the bishop with the surplice which symbolizes that from that day forward he belongs to the clergy and has the rights and privileges of the clerical state.



The following three Minor Orders were conferred to the candidate in the next part of the liturgy: The order of Porter, which meaning is that the candidate is the guardian of God's Church (he receives the symbolic church keys and rings the bells); the order of Reader, which is the sign that the Church finds him worthy to read the Word of God publicly in the church (during this rite the bishop hands the candidate the Sacred Book of Lessons); and the Order of Blessor, which meaning is that the candidate since that day has the right to bless bread, food, and all those things which the faithful will ask him to bless. As a symbol of this the candidate receives the Book of Sacred Rituals.

In his homily Bishop Paul Sobiechowski spoke about the spirit of service and dedication to God as an indispensable part in the life of a deacon. The Deaconate, said Bishop Paul, is a commission to serve, a privilege to lead, and an opportunity to bless the life of others.

Several clergy from the Eastern Diocese were present for this special Mass: Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Fr. Sr. Robert Nemkovich, Fr. Paul Dudek, Fr. Robert Koerber, Fr. Thomas Walsh, and Fr. Henryk Wos.

The liturgy of the Mass was prepared and led by the Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission.

The beautiful music for the Mass was provided by Karen Sobiechowski as organist and the United Choir members of the Eastern Diocese.

Following the Mass the clergy and the guests gathered in the parish hall for an excellent meal. The newly ordained Blessor Justin JD Daviault offered the graces.

Thank you to Fr. Senior Joseph Krusinski and the Parishioners of Holy Trinity for their hospitality.

By Fr. Henryk Wos

From Our Parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

Calendar of Events and Activities

We here in southeastern Connecticut at Divine Providence Parish have been very lucky so far this year weather-wise, except for one large snow storm and cold weather event at the New Year.

Otherwise the succession of events over the Holidays - Thanksgiving - Advent - Interfaith Holiday Choir Concert - "Wreaths Across America" wreath laying ceremony at our cemetery - Pasterka - Christmas - New Year's - Epiphany - Annual Service of Readings and Carols and the Annual Christmas Dinner followed by a visit by Santa Klaus - were enjoyed by all.

- **Wreaths Across America**

Our parish participated in the nationally sponsored Wreaths Across America event for the third consecutive year on Saturday December 16, 2017. And this was the second consecutive year that we held a wreath laying ceremony at our own cemetery. The weather this year was a nice clear sunny but cold day with snow on the ground.

We had an increase in attendance for the ceremony from eight people last year to 12 people this year. In addition, this year individuals could purchase wreaths which were laid in advance at their friends and loved ones graves as part of our event. All wreaths were removed from the cemetery on the same day that WAA wreaths are removed from Arlington National Cemetery.



- **Service of Readings and Carols**

One of the favorite Christmastime events at our parish is our annual Service of Readings and Carols which was held this year on January 7, the first Sunday of January 2018.

We had a fine attendance to hear the wonderful story of Christmas retold and to listen to beautiful traditional carols sung by our choir. The service was followed by our delicious Christmas Dinner which this year was partly sponsored by the family of our church member Ilia Chavez. Her family is here in the U.S. while Puerto Rico rebuilds after Hurricane Maria. They worked right along with our Culinary Society members. The afternoon ended with a visit from Santa Claus.



Hopefully, the months of February and March will be a quiet end to the winter months as we go into Lent and Easter.

By George Ververis

From Our Parishes...

St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA

Parish News:

In December, Candlelight service was held at St. Joseph's Church. It is always a special Mass when the lights are turned low and the candles are lit. This was followed by a reception held in the social center with a lovely meal

prepared and served by members of the Parish Committee. The children especially enjoyed this reception when the singing of Jingle Bells brought Santa to visit the social center. Each child had a turn to talk with Santa and was given a satchel with presents to take home which hopefully reminded them that "Jesus is the reason for the season". During the family Mass held at 4pm on Christmas Eve, the children donned costumes of angels and shepherds and processed around the inside of the church. This always is a joyful sight on such a special evening.

Also during the month of December, a food drive was held for the local food bank and also to restock supplies for the St. Joseph's shelves for meal preparation that we do every month for the soup kitchen in Westfield. The photo shows some of the supplies collected. Thanks to all

who donated these items as well as monetary donations collected to help with supplies.

In January, the Oplatek or Christmas Wafer breakfast and birthday party for Jesus had to be postponed due to the extreme cold weather.

Father Joe shares some Oplatek at the Birthday for Jesus celebration.



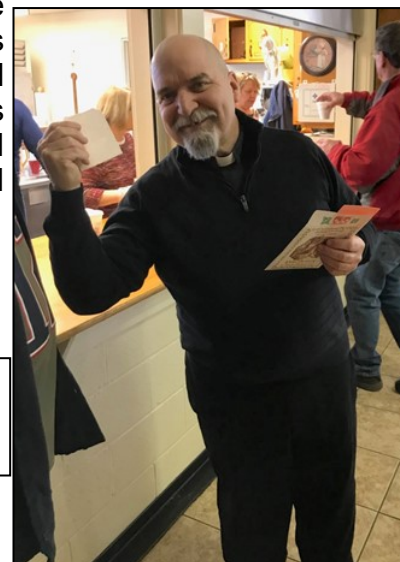
Kathy and Sue show off some delicious cheesecake snacks served at the Candlelight reception.



Sue and Trent are members of the Parish Committee that planned the lovely Candlelight reception.



Some of the St. Joseph's youth dressed as angels and shepherds at the Family Mass on Christmas Eve.



However, it was rescheduled on a day that was like Spring and the turn out was wonderful. Again, the Parish Committee members prepared a delicious meal and I believe everyone was so grateful for the socialization after hibernating at home for those frigid winter days we had. There was a beautiful tiered cake with candles for the party for Jesus.



Marilyn, Mary and Fran enjoying socializing during the breakfast in the social center.

In 2018, St. Joseph's continues to have Zumba classes every Monday evening at 7pm with Kelly B with most of the proceeds going into the general church fund. Walk ins are welcome and the cost is \$5. It is a wonderful opportunity to try Zumba in this low pressure class so if you are ever in the neighborhood, drop in.



Members of the Parish Committee serving breakfast. Dorothy gets her turn in line.



Elaine and Jean are all smiles and both said the egg and spinach dish was fantastic.



Sue, Pat, Cliff and Anne get a chance to sit down after their hard work was enjoyed by all.

As Pre -Lent begins, we hope everyone in the PNCC is having a happy and healthy 2018 so far. And that's a wrap.

By Kelly Burek



During the month of December, items were collected for donation to the local food bank.

National and Diocesan Events and Programs:

2017 Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In

The coldest weather of the winter to date did not keep away more than 30 youth, adults and clergy from across our Eastern Diocese to gather at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, Massachusetts for our diocesan Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In.



Friday afternoon December 29th saw the arrival and excitement of our youth for time in prayer, worship, fellowship and fun. The Winter Gathering began with a prayer led by our Bishop, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski. The youth were then treated to a video presentation from Prime Bishop Mikovsky on the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds. Although Prime Bishop was not with us in person – I think he might have heard the clapping from the gathering when his message concluded.



The first presentation was given by Fr. Michal Gitner. Fr. Michal had the youth put together a floor puzzle of the world and then spoke about a trip he made in 2008 to an orphanage in Myanmar that was taking care of children who lost their parents in a cyclone. He spoke about the poverty they lived in and how appreciative they were of the assistance and love given. Fr. Michal spoke about the poverty into which our Lord was born and how He from His birth in Bethlehem had a special place for the poor and those in need. He challenged the youth to be disciples of Christ - to reach out and help those who are in need – especially during the Christmas season. He finished with story time reading *The Not Very Merry Pout-Pout Fish*. Google it!



Following his session, the youth enjoyed a close game of Pictionary with scenes being drawn of the Nativity and Christmas by Brenda, Bishop Paul and Fr. Robert. JD as scorekeeper needed to be alert as the game was decided by just two points.



The youth received a visit from a real live shepherd (Fr. Robert Fredrickson) who reminded the youth about the Old Testament Prophecies and how they culminated in the birth of the Messiah. He spoke about the Humble Shepherds who went immediately to see the Christ Child when they heard from the Angels. He concluded his presentation by teaching the youth the importance of humility and showing humble service to our Lord in their lives.



District 3 of the PNU treated all gathered to a Pizza Party. All enjoyed some excellent local pizza from Dave's! Thank you to PNU District 3 for their generosity and support of our youth.

After a group picture of those present for Friday's portion of the gathering, Kathy, Joanne and Brenda led the kids in a rock painting activity. The youth and some adults painted rocks with kind and faith filled messages on them. They were asked to place the rocks out in locations where people would see them and read them.



Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich had the final presentation on the PNCC Solemnity of Humble Shepherds by the manger scene with just one light on over the manger in the church. He spoke about the message God gave us by having the poor and humble shepherds be the first to hear the Good News and how that translates to our lives. Fr. Sr. Rob spoke about the conditions of our ancestors in the faith in 1906 and the purpose for this special commemoration.



final portion of the presentation. The young men were encouraged to be open to the call of our Lord in their lives concerning the priesthood and diaconate.

Noel – The Happy Christmas Ornament was then shown. The youth and adults enjoyed this short video about sharing Christmas love and happiness in our world. An oldie but a goodie.

An Ice Cream Sundae social was then a big hit. Even though the temperature outside was hovering around zero – the ice cream with all the toppings went like wildfire! Thank again to PNU District 3 for sponsoring our ice cream social.



The kids enjoyed a few games of Nativity Bingo. Many laughs and a great time was had by all. Our winners got more candy to add to their sugar intake for the day. Thanks to Kathy Nemkovich and Joanne Oliveira for coordinating and selecting the activity for this winter gathering.

After all the blow up mattress and sleeping bags were in place – every enjoyed the movie “UP”. After the movie and Star Wars chips, Fr. Robert Fredrickson led everyone in evening prayer.



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

Come see your friends in Christ over the Christmas Vacation



WELCOME

Saturday morning began with a beautiful rendition of "Rise and Shine" by Mike Zarek and Fr. Robert. After deflating the mattresses, folding up the sleeping bags and straightening up the parish hall all gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. Fr. Sr. Rob celebrated Mass on this the Solemnity of the Holy Family. He spoke about the importance of the Holy Family, that our PNCC - during the month of January - is focusing on the example of the Holy Family for all of our families and encouraged them to offer the prayer on the prayer cards that is to be given to all families in our PNCC on January 7th.



After Mass Fr. Sr. Rob made a special presentation to Fr. Robert Frederickson who will be leaving our diocese for a new assignment in the Church. Fr. Robert was given a New England Patriots 2017 sideline winter hat and a picture/plaque thanking him for his dedication to the youth of our diocese and depicting some of his inspiring presentations at youth retreats, winter youth gatherings, acolyte retreats and convos.



A fantastic breakfast was then served. Thanks to Ryan and Joanna Barker for cooking us delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and of course – Dunkin Donuts. Fr. Sr. Rob thanked all the youth for making the time for Jesus. He thanked the adults for chaperoning and especially the less than a handful of clergy who made the time and effort for our youth!



Our diocesan parishes represented were: Blessed Trinity – Fall River; Holy Cross – Central Falls; Holy Trinity – Webster; Holy Trinity – Plantsville; Holy Trinity Cathedral and St. Joseph's – Stratford. Clergy participating: Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Robert Fredrickson, Fr. Michal Gitner and Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Youth Retreat 2018 at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts from August 19-23. This year our youth can bring a friend with them to Church Camp! Save the date and plan to join us. Have a blessed New Year 2018 and let us always remember God's message to us with the Humble Shepherds and go live it!

- Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Diocesan Youth Chaplain



Upcoming Events:

LENTEN RETREATS

*NORTHEAST SENIORATE
EASTERN DIOCESE – PNCC*

SATURDAY – FEB. 24, 2018

HOLY CROSS PARISH – CENTRAL FALLS, RI

SATURDAY – MARCH 3, 2018

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL – MANCHESTER, NH

BEGINS AT 9:00 A.M.

ENDS BY 2:00 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 FEBRUARY 21ST TO: RobNem21@aol.com

DISTRICT 3 PNU EASTER RAFFLE

The PNU has been supporting our Polish National Catholic Church since its organization in 1908 and with your support will continue to do so. Last year District 3 provided support to youth at the diocesan youth retreat (paid for the bowling trip) and winter youth gathering (provided a pizza party and ice cream sunday social).

The Easter Raffle will take place on Sunday, March 18, 2018 immediately following the 10:30 AM Holy Mass at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI.

The first prize is \$50.00 cash and the second and third prizes are \$25.00 cash.

Tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00 and 13 for \$10.00. For Tickets please ask your Pastor. 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

DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM

EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

*A Time of Prayer, Reflection, Enrichment & Discernment
for men of the Eastern Diocese
interested in our Diocesan Diaconate Formation Program*

Saturday – April 7, 2018
Blessed Trinity Parish - Fall River, Massachusetts

RETREAT SCHEDULE

9:45 am Holy Mass for Vocations
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, *Celebrant*
Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, *Homilist*

10:45 am Session 1
History of the Diaconate in the Church
Fr. Henryk Was

11:15 am – Time of Silence

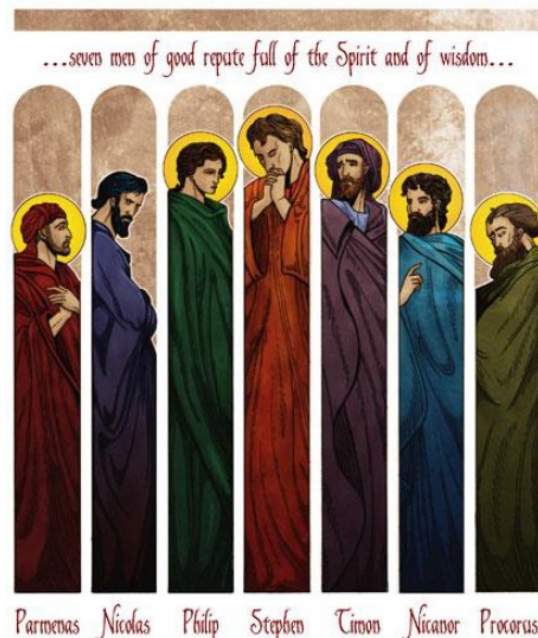
11:30 am Session 2
Reflection: The Deacon - Called to Serve
What it means to Serve - Fr. Andrzej Tenus

12:00 noon Lunch

12:45 pm A Time of meditation, reflection
and discernment - *Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*

1:30 pm Meeting with those men who have applied to the program

If you would like to attend, please email Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich
RobNem21@aol.com



2018 EASTERN DIOCESE ACOLYTE RETREAT

TUESDAY – JUNE 26, 2018

OUR SAVIOUR'S PARISH – WOONSOCKET, RI

“TO SERVE FOLLOWING THE HOLY FAMILY”

BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. WITH HOLY MASS AND ENDS AT LINCOLN WOODS PARK

SESSIONS ON OUR BLESSED MOTHER, ST. JOSEPH AND SERVING CHRIST AT HIS ALTAR



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

Altar servers - Plus a trip to Lincoln Woods Park

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

Deadline to register is June 21st



To register or for additional information contact:

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich (508) 672-4854 RobNem21@aol.com

Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat 2018

Faith and Family



Come and Worship



Learn



Have great Fun!



At Camp Howe in Goshen, MA

From August 19-23, 2018

Registration and Health Forms are available from your pastor or email: RobNem21@aol.com
and the cost is only \$150.00 per person - Follow us on Facebook: Eastern Diocese Youth

Come and end your summer with friends in Christ





FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Assignments:

- Father Robert Fredrickson was released from the diocese on February 1st to be received into the Western Diocese where he now serves as pastor of All Saints Parish, Sterling Heights, Michigan.
- On February 1st Father Henryk Woś was appointed administrator of Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA.

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- None scheduled

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Saturday, February 17 - Eastern Diocese Ladies A.N.S. Executive Board Meeting
-Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA - 11:30 AM
- Wednesday, February 21 - Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission Meeting
- Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI - 10:00 AM
- Saturday, March 1 - Eastern Diocese Council Strategic Planning
Sub-Committee Teleconference - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 6 - Thursday, March 8
- Non-Papal Catholicism Convocation hosted by the Polish
National Catholic Church - Dublin, Ireland
- Monday, March 19 -National School of Christian Living Teleconference - 8:00 PM
- Thursday, March 22 - National Mission and Evangelism Commission - Teleconference - 7:00 PM

- Wednesday April 4 - Thursday April 5 - Anglican Church in North America / Polish National Catholic Church Dialogue Meeting - Ocean City, MD
- Saturday, April 7 - Day of Reflection for those considering the Sacramental Order of Deacon - Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA
- Wednesday, April 11 - Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference - 10:00 AM
- Monday April 23 - PNCC Bishops' Conference - Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral - Lancaster, NY
- Tuesday April 24 and Wednesday April 25 - Polish National Catholic Church Supreme Council Meeting, Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral - Lancaster, NY
- Friday, April 27 - Sunday April 29 - National Mission and Evangelism "UN-Workshop" - All Saints Parish, Carnegie, PA

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

- Saturday, February 24 - Northeast Seniorate South Lenten Retreat
-Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI - 09:00 AM - 02:00 PM
- Saturday, March 3 - Northeast Seniorate North Lenten Retreat
-Holy Trinity Cathedral - Manchester, NH 09:00 AM - 02:00 PM
- Sunday, March 18 - Northeast Seniorate "Meal in the Upper Room"
- Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA

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

- Saturday, March 17 - "Pulaski in Manchester" Morning - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
-Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH



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

Entering Lent with Daniel Naborowski

Daniel Naborowski urodził się w 1573 roku w Krakowie. Podobnie jak wielu polskich szlachciców w tym czasie był kalwinistą. Kształcił się nie tylko w Krakowie, ale także w Wittenberdze (1590-1593) i Bazylei (1593-1595). W Bazylei studiował medycynę, w Orleanie studiował prawo, a w Padwie od Galileusza uczył się inżynierii wojskowej. Po powrocie do Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów dołączył do dworu magnata Janusza Radziwiłła, gdzie był sekretarzem i lekarzem. Był także posłem dyplomatycznym magnata i często podróżował za granicę. Po śmierci Janusza przeniósł się na dwór jego krewnego Krzysztofa Radziwiłła. Zmarł w 1640 roku w Wilnie, gdzie pod koniec życia został mianowany sędzią grodzkim.

Poza wierszami, Naborowski pisał listy, epitafia, fraszki i treny, głównie wychwalając spokojne życie kraju w duchu sarmatyzmu. Był także tłumaczem. Przetłumaczył między innymi trzy sonety Petrarci.

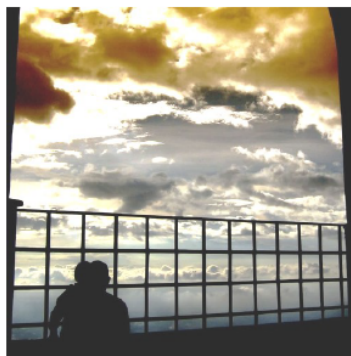
Daniel Naborowski was born 1573 in Kraków. Like many Polish noblemen of the time he was a Calvinist by faith. His education took place not only in Cracow, but also at Wittenberg (1590–1593) and Basle (1593–1595). In Basle he studied medicine, in Orléans he studied law, and from Galileo in Padua he learned military engineering. Once he returned to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, he joined the court of magnate Janusz Radziwiłł, where he was his secretary and physician. He was also magnate's diplomatic envoy, and often traveled abroad. After Janusz death, he moved to the court of his relative Krzysztof Radziwiłł.

He died 1640 in Vilna, where near the end of his life he was appointed the city's judge.

Besides poems, Naborowski wrote letters, epitaphs, trifles and laments, mostly praising the country's peaceful life in the spirit of sarmatism. He was also a translator. Among others he translated three sonnets by Petrarch.

Marność

Świat hołduje marności
 I wszystkie ziemskie włości;
 To na wieki nie minie,
 Że marna marność słyń.
 Miłujmy i żartujmy,
 Żartujmy i miłujmy,
 Lecz pobożnie, uczciwie,
 A co czyste, właściwie.
 Nad wszystko bać się Boga —
 Tak fraszka śmierć i trwoga.



Vanity

The world adheres to vanity,
 And craves all earthly property.
 No centuries will ever tame,
 Vanity's most meager fame.
 Let's love and joke, let's joke and love,
 But always mind the Heavens above,
 Full piously and honestly.
 All that is pure take properly.
 But first of all do fear God's might!
 A trifle then both death and fright.

trans. Franciszek Karpiński

Cnota grunt wszystkiemu

Fraszka wszystko na świecie, fraszka z każdej strony!
 Nic to, choć ty masz pałac kosztem wystawiony,
 Nic to, że stół zastawiasz hojnie półmiskami,
 Nic to, że-ć złoto, srebro leży gromadami,
 Nic to, że gładka żona i domu zacnego,
 Nic to, że mnóstwo wnuków liczysz z boku swego,
 Nic to, że masz wsi gęste i wielkie osady,
 Nic to, że sług za tobą niemałe gromady,
 Nic to, że równia nie znasz dowcipowi swemu,
 Nic to, że się ty światu podobasz wszystkiemu,
 Nic to, że-ć szczęście płynie nieodmiennym torem,
 Nic to, choćbyś opatem abo był pryjorem,
 Nic to, choć masz papieskie i carskie korony,
 Nic to, że cię wyniosło Szczęście nad Tryjony,
 Nic to, byś miał tysiąc lat szczęsne panowanie,
 Bo iż to wszystko mija, za nic wszystko stanie.
 Sama cnota i sława, która z cnoty płynie,
 Nade wszystko ta wiecznie trwa i wiecznie słyń.
 Tą kto żyje, ma dosyć, choć nie ma niczego,
 A bez tej kto umiera, już nic ze wszystkiego.

Virtue Is The Root Of Everything

Everything on earth is trifle, trifle throughout!
 'Tis naught, your palace was at great cost laid about;
 'Tis naught, lavish dishes are set on your table;
 'Tis naught, gold, silver are piled under your gable;
 'Tis naught, your wife is fair and of noble descent;
 'Tis naught, by your side many grandchildren attend;
 'Tis naught, your villages and large hamlets abound;
 'Tis naught, that crowds of servants follow you around;
 'Tis naught, that no one is just as intelligent;
 'Tis naught, that everybody finds you most pleasant;
 'Tis naught, that happiness stays always at your door;
 'Tis naught, you become an abbot or a prior;
 'Tis naught, though the crown of pope, emperor you wear;
 'Tis naught, Fortune raised you o'er Great and Little Bear;
 'Tis naught, if you rule a thousand years in good grace,
 For all these things will pass and rate no worthy place.
 Only virtue and glory, which from virtue flows,
 Endures eternally and eternally glows.
 He who lives by it is content, though he has naught,
 Who dies without it has nothing from the whole lot.

trans. Michael J. Mikoś

Do Anny

Z czasem wszystko przemija, z czasem bieżą lata,
 Z czasem państw koniec idzie, z czasem tego świata.
 Za czasem ustawa dowcip i rozum niszczyje,
 Z czasem gładkość, uroda, udatność wiotszeje.
 Z czasem kwitnące łąki krasy ostradają,
 Z czasem drewa zielone z liścia opadają.
 Z czasem burdy ustają, z czasem krwawe boje,
 Z czasem żal i serdeczne z czasem niepokoje.
 Z czasem noc dniowi, dzień zaś nocy ustępuje,
 Czasowi zgoła wszystko na świecie hołduje.
 Szczyra miłość ku tobie, Anno, me kochanie,
 Wszystkim czasom na despekt nigdy nie ustanie.

Krótkość żywota

Godzina za godziną niepojęcie chodzi:
 Był przodek, byłeś ty sam, potomek się rodzi.
 Krótka rozprawa: jutro - coś dziś jest, nie będziesz,
 A żeś był, nieboszczyka imienia nabędziesz;
 Dźwięk, cień, dym, wiatr, błysk, głos, punkt - żywot ludzki słynie.
 Słońce więcej nie wschodzi to, które raz minie,
 Kołem niehamowanym lotny czas uchodzi,
 Z którego spadł niejeden, co na starość godzi.
 Wtenczas, kiedy ty myślisz, już był, nieboże;
 Między śmiercią, rodzeniem byt nasz, ledwie może
 Nazwan być czwartą częścią mgnienia; wielom była
 Kolebka grobem, wielom matka ich mogiła.

To Ann

With time everything passes, with time years go by,
 With time states come to naught, with time this world will die.
 With time the wit slows down and mind starts to dither,
 With time good looks, beauty, grace begin to wither.
 With time meadows in blossom lose their loveliness,
 With time the verdant trees turn out to be leafless.
 With time squabbles subside, with time bloody struggles,
 With time sorrow, too, and with time heartfelt troubles.
 With time night gives way to day and day yields to night,
 Everything in the world pays homage to time's might.
 My true affection to you, o Ann, my dearest,
 In contempt of time, will never come to a rest.

The Brevity Of Life

trans. Michael J. Mikoś

An hour after hour inconceivably goes by:
 A forebear lived, then you, now an heir came to life.
 In brief: you won't be next day, what you are today,
 And since you lived, they'll call you he who passed away;
 Sound, shade, smoke, wind, flash, word - that's what life is known for.
 The sun which once passed by will not rise ever more,
 Like a wheel with no brake fleeting time runs away,
 Many who yearn for old age were thrown off astray.
 Just now when you are thinking, poor soul, you die out;
 Between death and birth our life hardly marks about
 A fourth of an instant; for many another
 The cradle became a grave, a tomb their mother.

trans. Michael J. Mikoś

By Rev. Adam Czarnecki

Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

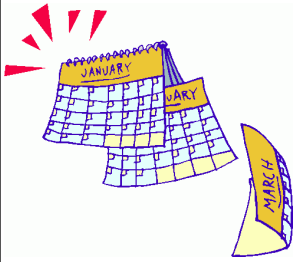
Holy Trinity Cathedral 166 Pearl St., Manchester, NH-03104-4236 Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor (603)622-4524	St. Joseph's Parish 73 Main St., Westfield, MA 01085-3189 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor (413)562-4403
Blessed Trinity Parish 37 Winthrop St., Fall River, MA 02721-2541 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Pastor (508)672-4854	St. Valentine's Parish 127 King St., Northampton, MA 01060-3234 Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor (413)584-0133
St. Casimir's Parish 268 Lakeview Avenue, Lowell, MA 01850-2313 Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor (978)453-0742	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. Henryk Wos, Administrator (508)-943-0608 / (401)-762-3072	

Diocesan Chaplains

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

Other Clergy serving in the Eastern Diocese

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



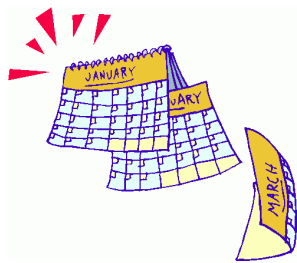
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS:
*If you are in the neighborhood we welcome you to join us
for upcoming events:*

St. Casimir Parish, Lowell, MA

- Feb 18th - Mar 25th - ANS Bachand Hall toiletry collection.
- March - Mailing to the sick/shut-ins (ANS).
- March 18th - Meal in the Upper Room, BVM Parish, Fall River, MA 4:30 pm.
- March 25th - Palm Sunday.
- March 27th - Holy Mass with Blessing of Oils, Woonsocket, RI 4:30 pm.
- March 29th - Holy Thursday, Mass at 6 pm
- March 30th - Good Friday Mass of the Presanctified at 10 am & Divine Mercy Novena at 3 pm.
- March 31st - Holy Saturday, Mass at 10 am followed by preparation of church by ANS.
- April 1st - Easter Sunday Procession and Mass, 9 am.
- Mid April - Church property and Cemetery clean up.

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

- 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 followed by a light lunch.
- 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.
- BINGO NIGHTS: Every second 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.
- Gorzkie Zale Lenten Services: Wednesdays during Lent in February and March at 7:00pm.
- Saturday, March 17th - Annual Flea Market/Polish Kitchen/Sweet Shoppe Bakery Table/ Trash and Treasure Room/Polish Bazaar: 8:00am 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.
- March 21st - Lenten Retreat Wednesday, 11:00am to 1:00pm and 5:00pm to 7:30pm.
- March 25th - Palm Sunday Service, Bake Sale, and Breakfast at 9:00am.
- March 25th - Interfaith Lenten Cantata, Congregational Church, Taftville, CT time to be scheduled.
- April 1st - EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES: at 6:00am, 9:00am, and 12:00pm.
- April 8th - Easter Dinner. Time yet to be scheduled.
- April 29th - Annual Greeneville Neighborhood Clean-Up Walk.
- May 13th - Mother's Day.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS;

St. Joseph Parish, Westfield, MA

- March 18th - St. Joseph's Day Men's Club Breakfast, following 8am Mass.
- March 23rd - Fish Dinner - 6pm.
- Easter Masses at St. Joseph's - 7am and 9:30 am.

April 6th - Westfield Boys and Girls Club Recital and play, social center.

- April 15 - Swieconka / Parish Easter Dinner following 8:00 am Mass, social center.

May 13th - Mother's Day Breakfast, following 8am Mass, social center.

- May 27th - Breakfast for Veterans, following 8am Mass.
- May 28th - Memorial Day Mass, parish cemetery 9am.

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

- February 28th — Ecumenical Lenten Service, at 7:00pm.
- March 18th — Passion Sunday Communion Breakfast at 11:30 after the Mass (10:30)
- March 25th — Palm Sunday Easter Eggs hunt at 9:30am, the Mass 10:30, and Bake Sale at 11:30.
- March 27th — Diocesan Mass of Holy Oils at 4:30pm.
- April 29th - Spaghetti & Meat ball Dinner and Talent Show. Begins at 11:30 after Mass.
- May 13th — Mothers Day Coffee Hour & Program following Mass at 10:30am.
- May 28th - Memorial Day Mass at the parish cemetery at 10:00am.

THE MESSENGER-Quarterly Newsletter

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- 2018 THE MESSENGER deadline for articles:

Summer Issue: June 8

Fall issue: September 10

Winter issue: November 23

The e-mail address to send articles is:

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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!