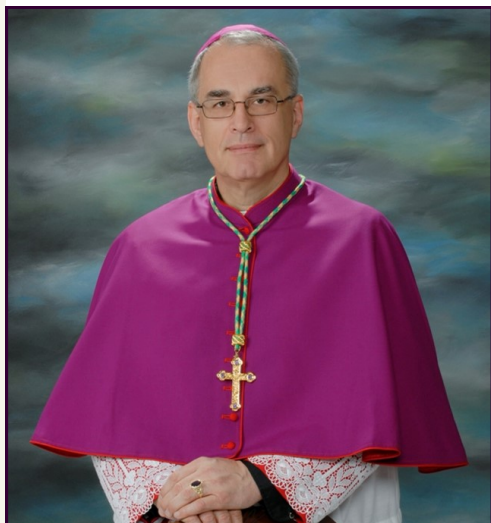
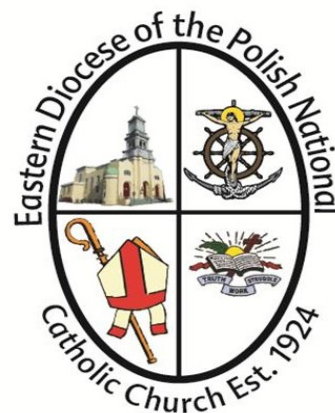


THE MESSENGER

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



ADVENT 2018

November 26, 2018

I have officiated at three funerals in the past three weeks. I also had the honor, sad though it was for those who remain, to participate in the funeral of my good friend and

our beloved Bishop, Stanley Bilinski.

The clergy of the Eastern Diocese were in retreat two weeks ago at Mercy by the Retreat Center in Madison, CT. The retreat was led by Bishop Richard Lipka of the Anglican Missionary Diocese of All Saints. Bishop Lipka reflected on aspects of the priests being *"Called, Consecrated and Commissioned."*

Advent is only six days away as I write this article. Considering the funerals I've shared in and the retreat I spent with my brother bishops and priests, I find myself today reflecting on the aspect of Advent that reminds Christians that we are waiting for the second and final coming of Christ. It would be easier to speak to Jesus' first coming as a Child in a Bethlehem creche. The story of God's taking on man's nature and substance, glorified by a choir of angels, would be heartwarming and much more sentimental.

But I find myself focusing on the mission of humankind that must be carried until Christ comes again to gather to Himself all of the faithful. *"And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other"* (Matthew 24:31)

Cont. next page.

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As Christians we are called, consecrated and commissioned to share the Good News with as many as possible until our Lord comes. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away"* (Matthew 24:35). After His resurrection Saint Luke tells us Jesus spoke to His disciples saying: *"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."* Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, *"Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high"* (John 24: 44 - 49).

The power Christ speaks of is the Holy Spirit, and God clothed the Apostles with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. With the power of the Holy Spirit they proclaimed Christ's teaching to all nations. And oft-times facing rejection they nonetheless remained faithful to Christ and to the Good News.

Today we face a similar situation. We live in a secular and what some authors call a "post-Christian" world. The Good News the Church proclaims through its faithful members is being rejected while materialism and self-interest grows. Nonetheless we must remain faithful. In Luke 21:13 we read: *"This will give you an opportunity to testify."*

Bishop Bilinski used every moment he had to testify to the faith he held dear. Those whom I have buried have done the same, as is testified to by the number who attended their funerals.

Our deceased brothers and sister touched others with the outpouring of Christ's love. Their faithfulness to Christ's command to love and to teach bore fruit in the lives of the people they touched. Their legacy, Christ's legacy, lives on in these people. And they, in turn, build the Body of Christ until He comes again.

St. Maximus of Turin (b. 380 A.D.) wrote: "Thus, dear brothers, may we who await the birth of the Lord cleanse ourselves of all the remnants of sin! Let us fill his treasuries with many gifts, so that upon the arrival of that holy day we may welcome the strangers, support the widows, and clothe the poor!

"Indeed, what would happen if, in the house of the servants under the same master, one were to proudly don silk garments while another was covered with rags; if one were stuffed with food while another suffered hunger and cold; if one were tormented by indigestion from yesterday's gormandizing while another could hardly stave off yesterday's hunger? Or what should the purpose of our prayers be?

“May we who are not generous toward our brothers ask to be liberated from the enemy. Let us imitate our Lord! Indeed, if he desires that the poor partake of heavenly grace with us, why should they not partake of earthly goods with us? May those who are our brothers in the sacraments lack no earthly sustenance, even if only so they may give testimony before God on our behalf: may we sustain them and may they give thanks to him. The more a poor man blesses the Lord, the more it will help the one who gives him cause to bless the Lord.” (Maximus of Turin, Homily 60, 3□4)

Let us take this Advent not only to prepare for a liturgical celebration of Christ’s nativity, but more so, may we use this time to re-dedicate ourselves to being Christ for others...”teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you, And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Bishop Paul

The 25th General Synod Of The Polish National Catholic Church

The 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church took place on October 1-3, 2018, at Our Lady of the Snows Retreat and Conference Center in Belleville, IL. During the synod Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky was reelected to a second term as the Prime Bishop of our Holy Church. Synod also voted, among other amendments proposed, to remove the maximum age limit and the maximum two term limit of the Prime Bishop's office. He will always stand for re-election every eight years, but the Prime Bishop will be able to serve as long as our Lord, the Church, and he desires.

The Synod is now history, but we move forward with great hope and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ for the future. A most positive report was presented on the Anglican dialogue and there is a great hope for future Communion with our Anglican brethren. The delegates engaged in a number of small group discussions that have produced a new set of short and long range goals for the Church.

A number of Eastern Diocese delegates were appointed to serve the Church in special capacities:

- **Supreme Council Representatives:** Father Senior Robert Nemkovich, Mrs. Kathryn Nemkovich, Ms. Marilyn Folcik, Mr. Raymond Pieczarka
- **Supreme Tribunal:** Mrs. Jo-Ann O'Connell
- **Ecumenical Officer:** Father Senior Robert Nemkovich
- **National Scouting Program Chaplain:** Father Adam Czarnecki
- **National Scouting Commission:** Father Adam Czarnecki, Father Robert Koerber
- **Constitution Commission:** Ms. Marilyn Folcik
- **National School of Christian Living Commission:** Mrs. Laurel Curylo, Mrs. Nancy Reilly
- **Church Doctrine Commission:** Father Senior Robert Nemkovich, Father Henryk Wos
- **National Liturgical Commission:** Father Senior Robert Nemkovich (chairperson), Father Henryk Wos
- **Mission and Evangelism Commission:** Father Robert Koerber, Mrs Karen Sobiechowski
- **Roman Catholic Dialogue Team:** Father Senior Robert Nemkovich
- **Anglican Dialogue Team:** Father Senr Robert Nemkovich, Father Henryk Wos

Congratulations to all of these people, and may the Holy Spirit guide them in their efforts.



Bishop Paul

Eastern Diocese
Delegates to the
25 General Synod
Of The Polish Na-
tional Catholic
Church

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 to prepare for our 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 by 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

From our Parishes:

Fall at Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA



As Fall began our parish ministry and outreach continued at Blessed Trinity Parish. Our doors were opened during the fall to host weekly AA meetings-Design for Living, monthly Kitchen Table Conversations - suicide loss support; monthly neighborhood watch meetings, Polish American War Veterans Association and Kosciusko club. We also hosted two voting precincts on election day, had the National Prescription Drug Return, Guns for Groceries, Fall River Falcons meetings and a Thanksgiving Day Community dinner for folks in need or alone on Thanksgiving.



Our parish also had several events and special celebrations and gatherings. On the Solemnity of Brotherly Love our Fall School of Christian Living classes began. During September we celebrated Vicki Bradbury receiving a National United Choirs Music Scholarship, Kaelyn was baptized, Adriana serving at the Altar and gathered to make cabbage pierogi for our upcoming Polish Food Fest.



Blessing of the Animals - Oct. 6, 2018



Vivian Baptized & Our Father Prayer Cubes - Oct. 20, 2018



October saw our blessings of animals, our SOCL/PTA fall outing with a hayride, pumpkin picking and a pizza party, Vivian was baptized and our youth enjoyed an All Hallows Eve activity and fun. Our parishioners gathered to make Chrusciki, Gołabki, Breads and baked

goods for our annual Polish Food Fest that raised \$20,000 so that we can continue to do the work our Lord is calling us to do.

Chryst - Chrusciki Making October, 2018



Polish Food Fest 2018

Friday - October 28th 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Saturday - October 29th 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Hosted Trinity Parish
360 Plymouth Avenue
Fall River, Massachusetts
508-422-4884
Facebook: Polish Food Fest
Hosted Trinity Parish



Gólabki Making—October 2018



Thursday I of Polish Food Fest Week - 2018



Friday I of Polish Food Fest 2018



Friday II of Polish Food Fest 2018



Saturday 11 of Drug Take Back during Polish Food Fest 2018



SOCL All Hallows Eve activity - Batty about Jesus



Operation Christmas Child - SOCL packing boxes 11 Nov. 4, 2018



During November as we gave thanks to the Lord for gracing us to do His work we completed our Operation Christmas Child Drive and this year had our SOCL youth fill many shoeboxes (thanks to the parents for getting so many great items). We had our Scholarship committee Thanksgiving Brunch and Parcel Post Auction raising funds for our parish scholarship fund. We were pleased to award a 2018 Blessed Trinity Parish Scholarship to Eric Nemkovich as well.

Operation Christmas Child 2018 - thanks to Bishop Stan for this annual effort



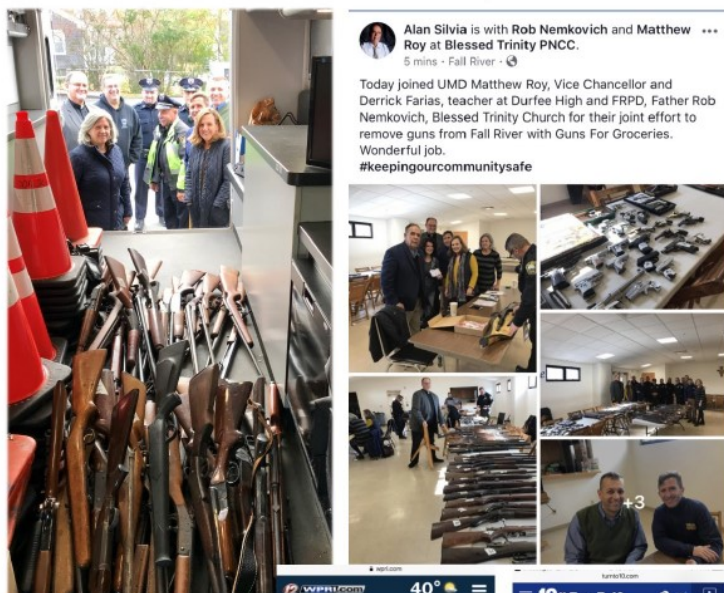
Thanks to those who serve, served and Happy Birthday - 11/11/2018



Guns for Groceries I - Nov. 17, 2018



Guns for Groceries II - Nov. 17, 2018



Alan Silvia is with Rob Nemkovich and Matthew Roy at Blessed Trinity PNCC. 5 mins - Fall River - 4

Today joined UMD Matthew Roy, Vice Chancellor and Derrick Farias, teacher at Durfee High and FRPD, Father Rob Nemkovich, Blessed Trinity Church for their joint effort to remove guns from Fall River with Guns For Groceries. Wonderful job. #keepingourcommunitysafe



Thanksgiving Brunch & Parcel Post Auction I - Nov. 18, 2018



SE Mass
'Guns for Groceries' events held in two communities

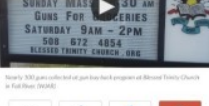
By: Julianne Lima
Jacqui Gormuski
Submitted Nov 18, 2018 10:00 AM EDT



FALL RIVER, Mass. (WPR) - Police in two communities turned unwanted guns into groceries during their 'Guns for Groceries' events Saturday. Firearms were collected at two locations: Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River and...

10% Turn To 10
'Guns for Groceries' nets nearly 100 guns in Fall River

by MARIO HILARIO, NBC 10 NEWS
Saturday, November 17th 2018



Nearly 100 guns collected at gun buy-back program at Blessed Trinity Church in Fall River (NBC 10). Inside Blessed Trinity Church in Fall River Saturday, a different kind of service was being...

Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner - 2018



Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner II - 2018



**Fall River Neighborhoods
Helping Families In Need
Christmas Toy Drive**



In conjunction with the
Fall River Police Department
and Blessed Trinity Parish



As we look forward to December our Christmas Toy Drive in conjunction with the Fall River Neighborhood Associations and the Fall River Police Department is ongoing as is our Advent/ Christmas food drive. We will also have our Advent Penitential Service, Living Nativity, Youth Group Spaghetti Supper, Birthday Party for Jesus and host again the Diocesan Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In. To see more pictures and be informed of forthcoming events, please follow us on Facebook: Blessed Trinity PNCC . *Fr. Sr. Rob*

From our parishes...

Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls , RI

This Fall was yet another busy time at Holy Cross Parish. Our Ladies Society held their annual Pork Supper on October 15, and had a great turnout.



Over the past weeks the parishioners have been spending countless hours in the parish kitchen preparing for our annual Polish Kitchen that was held on Saturday, November 17th. What a turn out we had and the take out lines were amazing . Thanks to all who helped in this endeavor for the parish so we can continue the work our Lord is calling us to do.





Putting the Gospel into action was witnessed during the fall months. Several boxes were collected for our annual Operation Christmas Child Drive. The shoeboxes were blessed after Mass on November 11th and are now on their



way to children who live in extreme poverty in our world. We also collected enough food and gift cards to have three Thanksgiving baskets donated to folks in need in the Central Falls area. These baskets were blessed after Mass on Sunday - November 18th. Currently our winter clothing drive is underway. These new winter coats, hats, gloves and scarfs will be given out at the Central Falls holiday fair before Christmas. A big thank you to all who donated items in the Name of Jesus to help those less fortunate than we.

We are also looking forward to hosting our annual Candlelight Service for the Northeast Seniorate on December 16th at 4 pm.

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

September 28, 2018 Meat Raffle

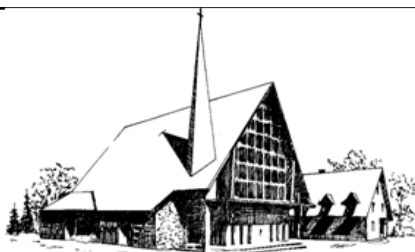
It was a raw and dreary Friday, September 28th but it was also a great night for a complimentary bowl of Italian Tuscan soup made by our resident chef, parishioner Lonnie Watson. We also enjoyed sliced Italian bread donated by parishioners Charlie and Katherine Caranci, owners and operators of Caranci's Bakery in Woonsocket, RI.

Patrons of this event, which is held only 3 times per year, eagerly awaited the doors to be opened for an evening of friendship, fun and the possibility of being a raffle winner. Beverages and pastries could be enjoyed throughout the evening.

The 14 themed tables celebrating the months of September, October, November and December were filled many new faces and they quickly made friends with our repeat customers. The tables were FILLED with "FREEBIES" so everyone went home a WINNER!

Philip Kaczorowski wore a king's crown and blinking "gold" necklace as the emcee of the evening.

Ed Surowiec handled the raffle table which consisted of a Gift Card Raffle, donated by the Parish Committee, Split-the-Pot (the winner received



\$102.00 and Father Henryk Was pulled the winning ticket) and 6 large gift items. Included in those gift items was a Star Wars Basket (41st Anniversary) donated by the Russell Family.

The Meat Raffle Pass gives you a chance for 15 attendance prizes and a Meat Raffle Pass for the next Meat Raffle (January 25, 2019).



Gail Surowiec sold raffle tickets for the Penny Social (25 prizes) and the young parish helpers distributed the prizes to the winners at intermission time.



We had 10 Meat Prizes, 10 Breakfast Packages (Thank you, Christine for the farm fresh eggs), 20 Mystery Envelopes, 20 Bonus Bags and 35 consolation prizes.

Edmund Fox does a great job before the Meat Raffle by preparing 100 sets of tickets for this popular event. He also sells the Meat Raffle passes (\$20.00 for 10 sets of tickets) at the door.

We also celebrated friends, who had a September or October birthday. There were 9 in total and they each received a beautiful house plant donated by our Green Thumb parishioner, Lenore Hutnak.

Everyone had a wonderful time and we are always happy to see how much fun people can have in a couple of hours. I enjoy setting up for this event and can't believe we started this parish fundraiser in January 2012. Time flies!

I also appreciate how quickly and efficiently the clean-up crew (YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE) returns the church hall to its original condition. Thank You!

Hope to see you at the next Meat Raffle on January 25, 2019.

By Patricia Kaczorowski



Philip and Patricia Kaczorowski's 45th Wedding Anniversary

Philip M. and Patricia A. (Callegaro) Kaczorowski of North Smithfield, RI celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, October 14, 2018 in Our Saviour's Church in Woonsocket, RI with family and friends. Philip and Patricia were married on October 20, 1973 in Our Saviour's Church. Philip's father, the late Rev. Louis J. Kaczorowski, the pastor of Our Saviour's Church at that time married the couple in a 10 a.m. morning service.

Rev. Henryk Wos, our Pastor, presided over the anniversary service and led the couple as they renewed their vows of marriage. Just prior to Philip and Patricia renewing their vows, Jeffrey Ethier sang "The Wedding Song" by Paul Stookey that was sung at their wedding. Jeff played the organ and was accompanied by his wife, Charlotte on the violin.

The couple have two grown sons, Peter and Mark and four grandchildren, Emma (18), Daniel (14), Zachary (11) and Ryan (4). Philip and Patricia are retirees and are very busy with their grandchildren and church activities.

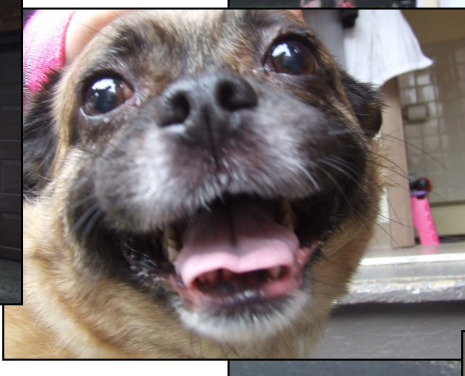


Philip also serves as PNU Branch 34 secretary.

Following the Mass, a breakfast was served in the parish hall for their "Church Family" who celebrated the occasion with them. After the singing of "STO LAT" by those in attendance, everyone enjoyed a delicious slice of anniversary cake from Wright's Dairy Farm in North Smithfield, RI. It was a very special day!

"Bless all creatures great and small"

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, at our parish took place Blessing of Animals. Fr. Henryk Wos, Pastor, commemorating St. Francis of Assisi, blessed the animals and the people who gathered at this occasion at our Saviour's.



Harvest Breakfast

On Sunday, October 28th, following the Mass at 10:30, Our Saviours' Parish held its Annual Harvest Breakfast.

The buffet menu featured eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, rolls, pastry, beverage, and coffee. A general Raffle included: Split the Pot, Raffle and Penny Social as well.

A huge thank you goes out to Parents, Teachers, and Students of our SOCL and to all our Parishioners for their hard work and support, as well our guests for their support to make our Harvest Breakfast a success.



Our Saviour's held their annual bazaar on November 10th.

Unlike previous years, when our doors opened that day, the hall filled up and soon enough there was nowhere to sit. This took us all by surprise, as we have never been so busy that early.

Not only was the main food selling, but all of our tables were bombarded with folks wanting to take raffles, play games, and especially purchase some Crème de Menthe brownies and whiskey balls! My boys especially enjoyed the games at the Children's table. I suspect I will be spending all my money at that table for several years.



Unfortunately, we had some issues heating up some of the pierogi in the kitchen, and we think it was a problem between freezing and defrosting, but we are not sure. This was a major setback, and we lost about 30 dozen of potato. We are making a few changes in our preparations for our Christmas workshops that I hope will make the product better.



As always, seemingly more on this day than our other church events, we have an outpouring of help from parishioners and their friends and family. We are so thankful for everyone's help in making our bazaar a great success. However, if it were not for God's advices and direction through it all, nothing would be possible.

By Sally Watson

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday November 18th, Our Saviour's Parish hosted the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Service for the City of Woonsocket.

This Thanksgiving Service was an initiative of a group of clergy from the Woonsocket area. The event gathered over 80 people from different Faith Communities of the nearby areas.

There were 8 pastors representing their communities: Rev. Peter Tierney of St. James Episcopal Church; Rev. Rev. Mark Grunwald of Christ Community Church in Blackstone, MA; Rev. John A. Kiley - ecumenical officer of the R-C Diocese of Providence; Rev. Jeffrey C Thomas of St. James Baptist Church; Rev. Wendy Van Orden of the United Methodist Church; Pastor Forhia Ross of Four-square Community Church, Ms. Deacon



Cleo Becker of Slatersville Congregational Church, and Rev. Henryk Vos of Our Saviour's.

The Service was led by Rev. Henryk Vos-the hosting Pastor. The Rev. Mark Grunwald in his homily spoke about the conversion of St. Paul and underlined that we all have to give thanks to God for all the graces He bestowed upon us, and that we have to share these gifts and blessings with others. The homily was followed by the lighting of the candles and thanksgiving prayers offered by the present clergy on behalf of their communities. The collection was taken for "*New Beginnings*", (a soup kitchen in Woonsocket).

All participants enjoyed the beautiful music performed by Jeff and Charlotte Ethier and the choir of Our Saviour's. A delicious collation prepared by the Parishioners followed the Service.

It was a beautiful faith experience for all of us. We prayed together to our Creator and Giver of all goods even though we belong to different Christian traditions. It seems that Christian unity is possible, when we have open minds and hearts and we are not afraid to accept diversities as a part of our common Christian Faith.

Thank you to all who helped to prepare this event. I hope it will be continued in the upcoming years.

By Fr. Henryk Vos

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA

Holy Trinity Parish in Webster, MA, has had a busy fall with their fundraising efforts. With the high cost of fuel to heat our church there can never be enough fundraising!

- On Saturday, September 15th a car wash was held to benefit both Holy Trinity Church and the Blessed Backpack Brigade, a local non-profit



group that provides guidance and support for the local homeless, elderly, disabled, veterans, unemployed and under employed.

The BBB also provides free fellowship meals twice a month to supplying backpacks filled with every day essentials.

Holy Trinity was



happy to donate half of the day's donations to them.

- A delicious roast pork dinner

with the fixings and homemade apple crisp for dessert was served on Saturday, October 20th.

- A clothing drive was held at the beginning of November. We collected over 800 pounds of clothing and sold it to Save. We appreciate all those that donated to our cause.



- On Saturday, November 17th we held a vendor/craft fair, bake sale and raffles. We had 11 tables filled with crafts of all types. From fresh pearls, dreamcatchers, knitted items and more to getting checked out by our local chiropractic office. The bake sale table didn't take long to sell out, but the biggest hit of the day was our 20 different raffles. A thank you goes out to all who donated their time and energy and those who generously donated to our raffle.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our fellow parishes a Happy and Blessed Christmas season.

By Rita Ouellette, Chairperson

From our parishes...

St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA

Pulaski Day Celebration October 8, 2018



The Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton sponsored its 32nd Annual Pulaski Day celebration, October 8th. It began with a memorial Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church, followed by the Parade commencing from the Church and ending at Pulaski Park with a special program and ceremonies. This event is held each year to celebrate Polish Heritage and honor the Late General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry who was killed in the Battle of Savannah on October 11, 1779. This observance was established in 1929 when Congress passed a resolution designating October 11th as General Pulaski Memorial Day.

The Parade included many veterans groups, marching bands from Northampton High School, South Hadley High School and Hopkins Academy, the Marquis of Granby drum corps as well as the Windsor Fife and Drum Corps, Polish Societies and Foundations, Polish Center of Discovery and Learning and Polish School children from Indian Orchard, Massachusetts, as well as parishioners of local parishes including St. Valentine's Parish.

The program at Pulaski Park began with the Invocation by Fr. Francis Reilly of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. The Co-Parade Marshals, John Scibak, State Representative serving the 2nd Hampshire District and Stephen Kulik, serving the 1st Franklin District of the Massachusetts State Legislature laid the wreath at the Casimir Pulaski monument. Proclamations were given by the Mayor of Northampton, David Narkewicz, and State Representatives Scibak and Kulik. The keynote speaker was Stephanie Kraft, Ph.D., Noted Author and Reporter (retired) for the Valley Advocate. Taps were played and attendees sang the Polish and American National Anthems. Miss Polonia, Julia Sudol and Jr. Miss



Polonia, Maya Garncarz were introduced. At the closing of the program, the benediction was given by Fr. Robert Koerber, Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Parish, South Deerfield.

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

by Krysia Newman

Coming Events/Classes

- ♦ **BIBLE STUDY** at St. Valentine's Parish — **Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Prayer & Discussion Leader: Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ♦ **POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES** at St. Valentine's Church — **Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Instructor: Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ♦ **RORATE HOLY MASS** — every Wednesday of Advent at 6:00 pm
- ♦ **POLSKIE KOLEDY (Polish Christmas Carols) SING ALONG** — Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 2:00 pm
- ♦ **ZAPUSTY AT ST. VALENTINE'S CHURCH** — Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm

POLSKIE KOLEDY

January 6, 2019
2:00 pm



POLISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG

Sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee
at

St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church
127 King Street
Northampton, MA



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



Please Join Us!

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

Memory Tree

The ANS Society
of the

St. Valentine's
PNC Church

will sponsor the

"Memory Tree"
project



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

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

A Holy Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated by
Fr. Adam Czarnecki on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 9:30 am

At this celebration each name will be read and later
inscribed in the **Memory Book**

The Memory Tree will be displayed in December and January

For the crosses contact: Krycia Newman (413) 584 - 4531;
Nancy Slusarski (413) 586-0642; Rectory (413) 584-0133

Z apusty in P arish H all of St. V alentine's C hurch



You are invited to dance Polka, sing and to eat paczki and chruściki

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Free will donation is appreciated



From our parishes...

St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester, CT

St. John's October and November activities

- Saturday afternoon Oct.13,2018 Fr. Adam and Magda Piekarczyewski rejoiced with the parishioners and friends to celebrate the **Baptism of their first child Jan.** Fr. Henryk Wos and his wife Renata acted as Jasiu's godparents. Fr. Ad-



Jan Piekarczyewski Baptism at St. John's Church

am celebrated a Holy Mass during which he baptized his son.

- The following Saturday St. John's hosted an **Open House** from 11am to 2pm, publicized in the neighborhood and in 2 Christian radio stations. Parish chairman Joseph



Open House at St. John's

Bednarz and his wife Maria, with

the generous culinary input of the

Dziura family, hosted a delicious free lunch of bigos, pumpkin soup and other dishes in the parish hall, to feed our friendly group of visitors after Fr. Adam spoke to them in the upstairs church. Several newcomers said that they would return for Sunday Mass either at 9am or at the 11am Polish Mass. All who came were given a sweet gift to take home, along with a Welcome Brochure about our parish and a flyer about our Pierogi Sale on Saturday Nov.10.

- On Saturday Oct. 27 at 3pm Fr. Adam celebrated a **Healing Prayer Service**, centered on Jesus' presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Several parishioners and visitors attracted by the Facebook publicizing of the Service all were profoundly blessed by their participation.



Healing prayer Service

During the service the ecumenical Taizé canon songs were used, in which the participants easily joined, repeating certain praise phrases in repetitive "litany" fashion. A highpoint at the end of the Prayer Service was when Father walked around the church to all present with the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance, so that everyone could physically touch Jesus and ask Him for a special healing and blessing.

- Sunday afternoon Oct.28,2018 Fr. Henry Smolinski our pastor emeritus led the parish team of walkers on another Church World Service CROP Walk against Hunger up the Main St. of Manchester. Fr. Henry's supporters raised a record \$350 toward the total of \$4,993 raised by 6 local Christian congregations. St. John's was the only Catholic parish participating this year.
- Saturday afternoon Nov.3 parish chairman Joseph Bednarz and Fr. Adam led a group of parishioners in a **pierogi-making workshop**, to prepare dozens of pierogis



Fr. Henry Smolinski at Crop walk 2018

for a fundraising

Sale event planned for the coming Saturday. On Nov 10 few minutes before 11am a long line of people stood in front of the church hall door to buy our delicious pierogi. In 35 minutes we were sold out! This great success just confirmed that in Manchester community the existence of

the Polish church and Polish spirit is very desirable.



Pierogi workshop (the last one was seven years ago)

- In December we start in the church hall a **FREE Polish Language Course** which is opened to everyone who wants to learn Polish and something about the Polish culture. Classes will be held on weekends; outside of lessons we plan also a Polish traditional dishes workshop and a Polish movie evening. All are welcome!

By Fr. Henry Smolinski -Pastor emeritus



POLISH IS EASY!

FREE language course for beginners!

Would you like to speak Polish?
Are you interested in Polish culture?
Do you have Polish family or friends?
Come and join our Polish course at St. John's, Manchester, CT.

For adults & teenagers >16
Evening classes
Small group
Friendly atmosphere
Polish film evenings

We start in DECEMBER 2018. Get in touch now!



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Polish National Catholic Church
23 Galloway Street, MANCHESTER, CT 06042 Rectory phone: 860-643-5906
Web: www.saintjohnspncc.com Facebook: [John the Baptist, Manchester CT](https://www.facebook.com/John.the.Baptist.Manchester.CT)

For more information, please visit:
www.saintjohnspncc.com or email us at: fr.adam@mail.com

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT

On November 3, 2018, Holy Trinity PNCC in Plantsville, CT held their annual Holiday Bazaar. The Bazaar featured a Teacup Raffle, a Baked Goods Table and the very popular "Polish Kitchen". The weather was a little iffy in the morning, but the sun finally came out and with it, the people. Vendors included representatives from Partylite (candles) and Wholly Goat Farms, specializing in lotions made with goat's milk. We also had Laurie Bleu who provided us with handmade scarves and hats and Ann Platt who displayed her beautiful creations.



Our own parishioners had their own table of crafts which included handmade aprons, gift bags and mugs filled with cocoa and other good stuff!

Everyone was in a holiday mood and very happy to have lunch. The menu included kielbasa and sauerkraut sandwiches, hot dogs, bigos, kluski soup and gołąbki.

Thanks to the "Kitchen Crew" of Sue Locks and Linda Aube for preparing the delicious meals and all the others who made this year's Holiday Bazaar a success.



By Marilyn Folcik

From our parishes...

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA

Annual Blessing of Pets



With St. Casimir's focus on being "a welcoming family", Saturday, October 6 was the day furry, four-legged family members were welcomed to an outdoor service in the church yard. Father Tenus led the service with owner-participants following along in specially prepared booklets.

Tail-wagging, playful barking and meowing were heard as Father Tenus blessed each pet individually saying its name. Pets who attended received St. Francis medals and treats or toys. This year several dogs, one cat and two hamsters were blessed. Two pets that had died were remembered in their framed photos. We were happy to welcome a neighbor and relatives of parishioners to the service.



As people of God who love all His creatures, we prayed for wild, abused, abandoned and forgotten animals. Charlotte Stankiewicz donated the St. Francis medals and prepared dog treats. Robert Ferus and JoAnn Menzia were readers during the service. Karina, Jonasz, Christopher Tenus were photographers for the event. Amelia Tenus welcomed and enjoyed all the pets.

By JoAnn Menzia

Annual Food Fest, Lowell, MA

The Annual Food Fest at St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell, MA was held on October 20 from 10 am – 3 pm. Again it was a great success, financially as well as socially as parishioners, new and older members, worked together in harmony.

Available from our parish kitchen were Polish plates consisting of pierogi, kapusta, rye bread and kielbasa. Servings of pierogi or gołąbki, and kielbasa sandwiches were also available

Desserts could be purchased from our sweets table as well as entrees which could be taken home and reheated. Frozen pierogi and gołąbki were also available for purchase—we totally ran out of gołąbki both in the kitchen and in the frozen food department.

During the afternoon, raffle prizes from our tea cup raffle were awarded at 15 minute intervals. These included many gift cards and other items donated by parishioners and friends of St. Casimir's.

A lottery raffle also took place where the winner could take home 100 lottery tickets or toaster oven (2nd prize) or gift basket (3rd prize).

We were blessed with the attendance of our diocesan Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and his wife Karen along with six parishioners from Holy Trinity Cathedral of Manchester, NH. Also in attendance were Father Paul Lukaszewicz, wife Monika and daughter Patricia.



At the end of the afternoon and after many weeks of preparation, everyone went home with a feeling of accomplishment.

Appreciation Brunch for Father Tenus

On Sunday, October 7 the parishioners of St. Casimir's honored Father Andrzej Tenus for his hard work all year long. After Mass, a brunch was prepared by St. Casimir's ANS sisters. Finger sandwiches, chips, assorted crudites, fruit salad, baked goods, juice, coffee, tea and soda were served.

The Co-chairmen of St. Casimir's Parish, Dr. Bert Quirbach and Robert Hunt made congratulatory remarks and thanked Father Tenus for his service to the parish. Charlotte Stankiewicz and Irene Jaracz, representing the Frederick Chopin Choir, presented a card and gift with thanks on behalf of the choir. Paula Jones of St. Casimir's ANS came forward with a gift and heartfelt appreciation. Father Tenus and his wonderful family are truly God's gifts to our parish.



With great gusto, all those in attendance sang "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow". Father Tenus beamed at his people. His address was loving and heartfelt. A group photo was taken and Father Tenus and his flock enjoyed the fellowship at the annual Pastor Appreciation Brunch.

By JoAnn Menzia

Annual harvest dinner and program

The 14th Annual Harvest Dinner and Program took place at St. Casimir's Parish on November 4, 2018. Our special guests were Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and his wife Karen who have supported us for many years. We were blessed to have them in attendance.

The reason for the dinner is three-fold: first to honor God by giving thanks for all His goodness; second to share God's blessings given to us in our garden; and third to build confidence in our children who perform during the program.

Our pastor, Father Andrzej Tenus, welcomed our guests to the dinner and asked the youth to sing a blessing song after which he pronounced the blessing over the food.

The dinner, co-ordinated by Diane Quirbach (adult advisor) and cooked by her helpers Dr. Bert Quirbach and Bob Hunt, consisted of chicken pie, potatoes, carrots, corn, squash with a variety of desserts including blueberry cake and pumpkin pie. Dolly Normand, Bev Runowicz, Deb Charette, Holly Gauthier-Guida, Melinda Jopson, Janice Klimczak, Dan Ford, Irene Jaracz also assisted in preparation. Dr. Bert has sponsored the dinner for many years. For this we are most grateful.

In a program arranged by Karina Tenus and Diane Quirbach, the children sang songs of faith as well as a modern Polish folk song. Songs sung were "Praise and Thanksgiving", "You are My All in All", "Standing on the Promises", "How Great is Our God", and "Sieje Je". Soloists were Karina and Christopher Tenus. Emma Ford-Hunt performed 3 Irish step dances and Amelia Tenus sang "A Thousand Years" by Christina Perri.



Vesuvio Gauthier, Karina Tenus and Jonasz Tenus spoke about CONVO and Church camp which they had attended. Proceeds from the dinner/show are used to send our youth to both of these church related events. Thanks were expressed to those in attendance for supporting the youth in their endeavors.

From Our Parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

The fall season at the Divine Providence Parish is going along nicely

- Our popular Bingo Nights scheduled on the second Friday of the month continue. In addition to the bingo games and prizes, our Taste of Poland, Polish Kitchen opens that day from 5:00pm to 7:00pm serving Polish and



American light meals and snacks before the Bingo Nights. Brotherly Love Sunday was celebrated on September 9 in our sanctuary. After that service, our annual Brotherly Love Fall Food Drive was kicked-off, collecting canned and dry food goods and personal toiletry items for the local Emma Moran Food Bank of southeastern Connecticut running from September 9 through September 31. Our Semi-Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, September 16.



- Our annual Polish Brunch and Bake Sale was held this year on Sunday, September 23 after Mass, 10:00am to 2:00pm, serving a delicious array of Polish and American specialties. The hard work done in the kitchen by our Culinary Society volunteers produced a fine meal to remember and for all to enjoy. Our ladies Adoration Society (ANS) members baked delicious pastry, pies, and cakes for sale during the event.



- The Norwich, CT Rotary Club sponsored its sixth annual Celebrate Diversity event on September 17 at the Norwich Harbor Park. Our parish was represented with a decorated booth serving Polish food and with parishioners and friends wearing festive Polish dress. Our parish has won First Prize for best restaurant booth and best food in past years and another award this year.
- The Christian Family Sunday service took place on October 14 and was followed by the Election of Parish Officers.
- On October 21, Polish Fest was held in downtown Norwich, CT. It was a centennial Celebration of Poland regaining its independence. It featured band music and dancing, a strolling accordionist, a Polish dance group, food booths, and a bouncy house for the kids.
- Our Annual Harvest Festival & Flea Market was held on Saturday, November 3 from 8:00am to 2:00pm and was a great success. People from the neighborhood and the greater community visited to buy flea market treasures, homemade jams and jellies, baked goods, Polish canned goods and candy, and Polish food from our Taste of Poland, Polish Kitchen prepared by our Culinary Society.
- This year All Saints Day occurred on Thursday, November 1 and All Souls Day on Friday, November 2. We visited our cemetery in respect for the departed. We placed flags at the graves of veterans for Veterans' Day on Monday, November 12.
- Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner occurred on November 18 and was well attended. Turkey led the menu which started with tossed salad, then on to all the usual trimmings, and ending with a delicious pumpkin dessert.
- The Thanksgiving, Lent, Christmas, and New Year's holidays are coming along fast. We here at Divine Providence wish all our family and friends everywhere a joyous and happy holiday season.



Upcoming Events at 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

BIBLE STUDY After Sunday 9:00am Mass

FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFASTS Breakfast follows every First Sunday 9:00am Mass

SUNDAY SOCIAL HOURS: Coffee and snacks after 9:00 Mass every Sunday except the first Sunday

November 18, Sunday Parish Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner, 4:00pm

November 22, Thursday Thanksgiving Day

December 2, Sunday First Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Confession at 8:45 pm

December 15, Saturday Wreathes Across America Wreath Laying at our Cemetery, 12:00pm

December 16-19 Advent Retreat

Schedule of Retreat Devotions and Conferences:

- Sunday Dec.16, 4PM -- Confession, vespers, and first conference (held in the church)
- Monday Dec.17, 4PM -- Confession, vespers, and second conference (church hall)
- Tuesday Dec.18, 11AM -- Mass and third conference (church)
- Wednesday Dec.19 11AM -- Healing Mass, fourth conference, and lunch (church hall)

December 24, Monday Christmas Eve Service, Pasterka, 10:00pm

December 25, Tuesday Christmas Day Service, 9:00am.

December 26, Wednesday St.Stephen's Day, Mass at 11:00am

December 27, Thursday St. John's Day, Mass at 11:00am

December 30, Sunday Humble Shepherd's Sunday

January 1, Tuesday New Year's Day, Mass at 11:00am

January 6, Sunday Epiphany

January 6, Sunday Annual Christmas Dinner, time as yet to be determined. This year's Dinner will be potluck with the main course prepared by the Culinary Society to be followed with a visit from Santa Claus.

BINGO NIGHTS **Every second Friday of the month at 7:00pm. The Polish Kitchen is open from 5:00pm to 7:00pm before bingo.**

By George Ververis

Diocesan Events and Programs:

• Eastern Diocese Annual Clergy Retreat

On November 13-14, 2018 the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese met in Mercy Center at Madison, CT for their Annual Clergy Retreat. The retreat was led by Bishop Richard Lipka, the auxiliary bishop of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints (ACNA). Bishop Lipka led the retreat focusing on the topic of the priestly vocation.

In the first of the four conferences Bishop Lipka focused on the "Vocation to holiness". All people are



called to holiness, to live a life of grace; to be beyond who we are as human being. This holiness must be always two dimensional: vertical (being holy in the eyes of God), and horizontal (being holy for other people). As the basic text Bishop Richard used the passage from the first letter of St. Peter 2: 9, *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of him*

who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light". This holiness of life can be achieved by daily prayer, meditation on the Gospel and faithfulness to the church tradition.

The second conference was entitled "Vocation to follow Jesus". This conference was based on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:7-). In this passage Jesus called those who wanted to be with Him (the Apostles). So, to be Jesus' disciples means to be with Him, to listen to His Word and to live according to His teaching. The priest cannot be fruitful in his mission if he doesn't spend time with Jesus (prayer and meditation). The self-consciousness of the priestly vocation helps to focus on what is essential in the priestly life (priests are not carpenters, plumbers, or painters). Their first thing they have to do is to know Jesus everyday better and better.



The third conference was entitled "Vocation to the priesthood" The basic text for this reflection was the passage from the Book of Jeremiah 1:5. *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."* Like the prophet Jeremiah, every priest is called to proclaim the Word of God. It is not him who decides to be a priest, but God himself. He is chosen to be God's messenger to the world. A like the prophet Jeremiah is sent to tell others what they need to hear, not what they want to hear. Jesus died for all humankind on the cross. This self-sacrificing love saved all of us from spiritual destruction. Every priest called to this type of sacrificial love for others.

The last conference (fourth) was focused on the "Power (the gifts) of the Holy Spirit". The basic text was John 14:16-17. *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

The Holy Spirit is essential for the fruitful mission. Every priest has to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in every mission. The effectiveness of his mission depends on the intimate relation the priest has with the Holy Spirit. Empowered by the Holy Spirit he can do mighty works and fulfil his call.

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

By Fr. Henryk Wos



Thank you to all who supported our PNU District 3 Raffle –

District 3 will be providing pizza and ice cream sundays to all attending the Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering and Lock in on December 28 & 29, 2018. God bless you all!

We hope that in the future more parishes will support this effort as it does benefit our diocese and youth program.

PNU District 3 Thanksgiving Raffle - 2018

4 Parishes participated = \$465 – 25 = 440

Manchester, NH – 145

Fall River - 139

Central Falls – 70

Woonsocket – 45

w/ 4 other individuals participating = \$66

Donations to offset prizes = \$75

Phil Kaczorowski - 25

Fr. Sr. Rob & Kathy Nemkovich – 25

Mike & Maryann Zarek – 25

Winners

1st Prize - \$50 – Carolyn Hebert (Manchester, NH)

2nd Prize - \$25 – Janice Soltysiak (Westfield, MA)

3rd Prize - \$25 – Joe Wysocki (Manchester, NH)

Profit for District 3 = \$440.00



By Fr. Sr Rob Nemkovich

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

For the Parishes of our Northeast Seniorate

Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 pm

Holy Cross Parish

320 High Street - Central Falls, RI



A fellowship hour with a
Birthday Party for Jesus will follow
You could even bring a gift
*(Canned good or non-perishable food item
or an item of winter clothing)*

Please join us and RSVP by Dec. 12th to

RobNem21@aol.com



2018 EASTERN DIOCESE PNCC WINTER YOUTH GATHERING & LOCK IN

When: Friday - Saturday - Dec. 28 & 29, 2018

begins at 2:30 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!!



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



**Jesus called and they followed.
He's still calling.**



**Do you know someone who might have a
calling to the Priesthood or Diaconate?
Encourage him today...and let us know!**

Polish National Catholic Sacred Vocations Commission:

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky - Prime Bishop

National Contact: Rev Scott J. Lill - Chair

814-886-4904 · scottjameslill@yahoo.com

Eastern Diocese Contact:

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Chair, Deacon Program

508-672-4854 · robnem21@aol.com



SAVE THE DATE !!!!!

Mark your calendars, and plan to attend the 19th Mission Workshop, “Identity: Who We Are in Christ.” Sponsored by the National Mission and Evangelism Commission, the Workshop will take place at **Holy Trinity PNCC in Plantsville, CT, March 29-31, 2019**, beginning on Friday afternoon and ending early in the day on Sunday. Participants’ group discussions at the last Workshop generated the ideas which will be further explored in this one, and more details will follow soon. Plan to get involved and interact with others who want to see their parishes thrive and grow in Christ.



FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Assignments:

- There were no new assignments made during the past three months.

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- None scheduled

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Tuesday, December 4 - Seminar - Boundaries and Ethical Conduct for Clergy - to be held at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH - Mandatory attendance for all Eastern Diocesan Clergy
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Wednesday, January 9 - Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission Meeting □ Woonsocket, RI
10:00 AM — 02:30 PM
- Tuesday, January 15 - Thursday January 17 - Dialogue Meeting between the Anglican G-4 Churches and the Polish National Catholic Church, Atlanta, GA.
- Wednesday, January 23 - Eastern Diocese District 3 Polish National Union of America Teleconference
07:00 PM

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

- Sunday, December 2 - First Sunday of Advent
- Saturday, December 8 - Solemnity of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, December 16, Northeast Seniorate Candlelight Service and Birthday Party for Jesus - Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI, 4:00 PM
- Friday, December 21 - Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle
- Monday, December 24 - Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord
- Tuesday, December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord
- Wednesday, December 26 - Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon, Proto-Martyr
- Thursday, December 27 - Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist
- Friday, December 28 - Observance of the Holy Innocents
- Friday, 28-Saturday December 28 – Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering&Lock Inn – Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA. Begins Friday 2:30pm.

- Saturday, December 29 - Solemnity of the Holy Family
- Sunday, December 30 - Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds
- Tuesday, January 1, 2019 - Solemnity of the Circumcision of our Lord
- Wednesday, January 2 - Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus
- Sunday, January 6 - Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord•
- Sunday, January 13 - Solemnity of the Baptism of our Lord
- Friday, January 18 - Feast of the Chair of St. Peter at Antioch
- Friday, December 25 - Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle
- Saturday, February 2 - Solemnity of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday, February 16 - Observance of the death of First Prime Bishop Francis Hodur
- Monday, February 25 (translated) - Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle

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

- Saturday, December 1 — Homecoming Dinner - St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA, 4:00 PM

Polish Poetry



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



Tadeusz Dziewanowski

Urodził się w 1953 r. w Gdańsku. W latach 70-tych Tadeusz był zaangażowany w polski teatr uliczny jako pisarz i performer, a w latach 80-tych był współzałożycielem grupy kreatywnej z terenu Gdańska "Tawerna Psychonautów". Od niedawna poeta i tłumacz z języka angielskiego. Jego pierwsza tom poezji "Siedemnaście tysięcy małpich opowieści" ukazał się w 2009 roku zdobywając trzecią nagrodę w ogólnopolskim Konkursie Literackim "Złoty Środek Poezji" Kutno 2012 za najlepszy debiut książkowy roku. Jego poezja, recenzje i tłumaczenia z języka angielskiego pojawiają się regularnie w ważnym polskim czasopiśmie literackim Topos. W Stanach Zjednoczonych jego poezja w przekładzie Daniela Bourne pojawiła się w International Poetry Review, Cerise Press, Plume i The Sow's Ear.

Born in Gdańsk in 1953. Tadeusz was involved in Polish street theater as both a writer and performer during the 1970s, and was a co-founder of the Gdansk-area creative group, Tawerna Psychonautów (The Tavern of the Psychonauts) in the 1980s. More recently, he has been a poet and translator from English. His first book of poetry, *Siedemnaście tysięcy małpich opowieści* (Seventeen Thousand Monkey Tales), appeared in 2009 and won third prize in all-Poland Literary Competition „Złoty Środek Poezji” (Gold Center of Poetry)

Kutno 2012 for the best book debut of the year. His poetry, reviews and translations from English appear regularly in the major Polish literary journal Topos. In the U.S., Daniel Bourne's translations of his poetry have appeared in International Poetry Review, Cerise Press, Plume i The Sow's Ear.

Dwie Podróże

Jedziemy na południe
 Przez tylne drzwi ostatniego wagonu
 Klin perspektywy wbija się w wąwóz
 Przejechaliśmy nad ukrytą pod nasypem Strzyżą
 Mijamy mężczyznę z dziewczyną i czarnym psem
 Piknik w mroźny, zimowy dzień
 Termos z gorącą kawą, kanapki
 Za chwilę ruszą w przeciwną stronę
 Pociąg przeskakuje kolejny zwalony most
 Pablo kagańcem uderza w szybę
 Córką uspokaja go łagodnym głosem
 Niewidomy konduktor zapowiada następną stację

Two Journeys

We are traveling to the south
 Through the back doors of the last train car
 The land wedges into a ravine
 We've just passed the culvert over the Strzyza River
 We've just passed a man and a woman with a black dog
 A picnic on a chilly winter day
 A thermos with hot coffee and a small group of sandwiches
 In a moment they will go off in their own way
 While this train keeps going over the next missing bridge
 And Pablo my muzzled dog lunges at the plate glass door
 My daughter calms him with the softness of her voice
 As our blind conductor calls out the next station on the line

Cztery Sny o Kresach

Pradziadek w mundurze powstańca styczniowego
 (Dostojny, siwy – strona pierwsza)
 Cztery dni czeka na swoje miejsce
 Na Łyczakowskim Cmentarzu
 Babcia wyskakuje przez okno gdy dwór w ogniu
 (Uśmiechnięta w czarnej sukni – strona czwarta)
 Zaśnieżony step po dziadku rządcy
 Cztery wiorsty od łągu
 (Strona piąta – na koniu – czarny wąs, błysk w oku)
 Aptekarz Makary dzieli na czworo
 Ostatni kartofel na sprawiedliwej wadze
 (Strona szósta – puste miejsce po zdjęciu)
 Oździutcze, Łokacze, Luboml, Krzemieniec
 Zaginiony kontynent czwartego wymiaru
 Nikomu nie udało się przejść przez Ulicę Krokodyli

Four Dreams of the Borderlands

Ancestor in the uniform of the January Uprising
 (Dignified, gray-haired, page one)
 For four days he waits for his own spot
 In the Lyczakowski Cemetery
 Grandmother jumps through the window of the manor house in flames
 (She smiles in a black dress, page four)
 The snowy steppe four versts from camp
 where my land-steward grandfather fell
 (Page five, on a horse, black moustache, glint in the eye)
 The chemist Makary dividing into four
 The last potato on his finely calibrated scales
 (Page six – only a blank spot where a photo used to be)
 Ozdzutche, Lokacze, Luboml, Krzemieniec
 Lost continent of the four corners of the world
 Where no one has ever made it alive down the Street of Crocodiles

All translations by Daniel Bourne

Martwe dzieci puszczy

Martwa normica, powalony dąb
Tańczące omallice
W chitynowych sukienkach
W łowickie pasy
W płytkim grobie jeleniego kopyta
Od pyszczka do ogona
Od łapek do grzbietu
Na szarym futerku
Na czarnej ziemi.
Śpiący Jagiełło
Żywi młode wiązy
Twarde jak stal graby
Lipy i jesiony
Nowe pokolenia jego poddanych
Modlą się o promień do słońca
Jedynego boga puszczy.
W matecznikach wiosek
Rodzą się potomkowie smolarzy
Bobrowników, budników, bartników
Na zgliszczach spalonych chałup
Żubry mruczą im kołysanki i treny
Balsam białoruskich nalewek
Ze sklepu *Alkohole Wschodu*
Doskonale leczy wszystkie rany



Między wierszami

Zanim powstanie utwór doskonały
Który wszystko wytłumaczy
Napiszę wam na razie wiersz o bogu miłości i śmierci
To za chwilę bo teraz trzymam na kolanach kota który
Kiedy się zbudzi opowie mi swój sen
A potem jak zwykle bez pożegnania odejdzie
Do swoich zwykłych codziennych zajęć
Zostawi mi biały wąs z którego
Spróbuję odczytać swoją przyszłość

Było

Powiadasz że to było wczoraj przyjacielu
W pokoju pod błękitem z lampką cichą w rogu
Buląt szeptał do ucha gruzińskie zaklęcia
Ślepy Bach brandenburski i Beethoven głuchy
Prześcigali się z Händlem w polifonii świętej
Stare marsze i walce huczały w mosiądzu
Medale szpady szarfy raziły nam oczy
Płomienisty gramofon trząsał jak kominek
Przemierzając spiralę czarnej galaktyki
Matka szklankę wypila by oszczędzić głowy
Młodzieńców którzy łatwo brali złote kwinty
Jan anioła kołysał w wieczornej modlitwie
Kolanem rozłupywał orzechy pokuty
My postacie z Chagalla z sercami z pieroga
Lecieliśmy na boku pod sufitu niebem

To the Dead Children of the Wilderness

A dead field vole, toppled oak,
the carrion beetles
dancing in their chitinous gowns
in their colored stripes
in the shallow grave of a deer print
from the snout to the tail
from paw to backbone
on the gray scrap of fur
on the black ground.
The eternal rest of Jagiello
the slender young elms
and the hornbeam tough as steal
the linden and ash
a new generation of subjects
praying for a thin ray of sun
the one true god of the wilderness
In the cradle of the villages
stir descendants of the char-men, the shack-makers,
the wardens of beavers, the beekeepers tending forest hives,
beyond the blackened ashes of the huts the bison
croon to the children both lullabies and laments,
the balsam of Belarus liqueur
from the store *Alcohols of the East*
swathing perfectly all wounds

Between Poems

Here in this moment before the perfect poem
Capable of explaining everything
I'll write for you something make-do about the god of love and death
But not for awhile because now I must hold this cat on my lap
Who when it finally wakes up will describe its latest dream
And then as usual will disappear without saying goodbye
To do the same thing it does every day
Leaving behind just a single white whisker
From which I might decipher my own future

It Was

You tell me my friend that it was yesterday
In the room with the blue light from a quiet lamp in the corner
Okudzhava* whispering magic spells from Georgia in our ears
The blind Brandenburg Bach and the deaf Beethoven
Vying with Handel in a holy polyphony
Old marches and waltzes blaring out in brass
Medals swords and sashes blinding all our eyes
A fiery gramophone spitting like a hearth
Wandering the spirals inside a dark galaxy
Mother downing a whole glass in order to keep the heads
Of young lads who too easily hit their amber fifths
Jan cradling an angel inside his evening prayer
His knees cracking open the hard shell of repentance
We were characters of Chagall with hearts of pierogi
Flying on our sides as heaven opened above us in the ceiling

*Bulat Okudzhava (Bulat Okudźawa, in Polish) was born in 1924 in Moscow of Georgian and Armenian parents. He is probably the most well-known of the Russian guitar-bards of the 20th century, roughly the equivalent of Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen all rolled into one. That his songs were mainly non-political in their content actually politicized his music, causing the authorities to reluctantly recognize Okudzhava while at the same time increasing his true popularity in the U.S.S.R. and neighboring countries.

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 |
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| 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 |
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| | |
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The word '**Advent**' comes from Latin and means "coming;" its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it was a season that focused on waiting. So, "Advent means something new is coming. This is really what the Christmas season is all about, It is the celebration of the ADVENT of a new era. God broke into time and space and entered our world".

Through prayer, we can enter into *God's* world and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son. Ask the Father to use this time during Advent to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness.

Some Simple Things to Pray For During Advent:

Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.

Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.

Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.

Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.

Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of loving community.

Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.

Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.

Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.

Pray for joy and a sense of humor.

Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.

Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.

Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.

Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.

Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

Edited from Whitney Hopler's *"Pray for Simplicity this Advent"*

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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!