

Dear Faithful and Friends of All Saints Parish,

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

As we continue to live the joy of the Easter season, we are reminded that the Resurrection is not simply something we celebrate—it is something we carry within us. The risen Christ is present among us, renewing our hearts and strengthening our parish family.

The months of May and June offer many beautiful opportunities for prayer, celebration, and community. Throughout May, I warmly invite you to join us on Friday evenings for our May Devotions. These peaceful gatherings draw us closer to our Blessed Mother and, through her, closer to our Lord. In the quiet rhythm of prayer and reflection, we find grace to be renewed.

We also look ahead with great anticipation to the Solemnity of Pentecost. The same Holy Spirit who descended upon the Apostles continues to move powerfully in our lives today. Pentecost is a reminder that our faith is alive, active, and filled with possibility—indeed, it can happen today.

During this time, we also celebrate Mother's Day, giving thanks for the love, sacrifice, and faith of the mothers who have shaped our lives. May God bless them abundantly. At the same time, we recognize the accomplishments of our students as the school year, and college spring term come to a close. We are proud of them and pray for their continued growth and guidance.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that our first summer concert series will begin at the end of June. These evenings will be a wonderful opportunity to gather in fellowship, enjoy music, and welcome others into our parish community. We are still seeking performers, so if you or someone you know would like to participate, please reach out—we would love to include you.

My friends, we are still in Easter—still living in the light of the Resurrection. Let us continue to gather, to pray, and to invite others to experience the joy we share.



With every blessing,

Father Jim

Reverend Dr. Jim Ploskonka

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Hello everyone,

It’s been a long winter, but we finally have some nice weather. Hope everyone can get out there and enjoy it. I know I’ve been busy trying to clean up the yard, now that things are starting to grow, so are the weeds. Speaking of which, I hope to see a lot of you at our annual church cleanup, which will be on Saturday of Memorial weekend, May 23rd. We usually get started around 9:00am I encourage all who can, to take a little time out of your busy weekend to help maintain our beautiful church. There are many jobs to be done from yard work to window washing. The kids can help too by picking up sticks and weeding. It’s a great service project if they need any hours for school activities.

We are also excited as we look ahead to a fun-filled summer of fellowship and activities. I know Father Jim is still trying to put together a summer concert series, can’t wait to hear more about that. We will also be raising our new flag, generously donated by Sharon in loving memory of her late husband, Frank. We are deeply grateful for this meaningful gift and what it represents to our congregation. And the Parish Committee is looking at many more projects that need to be done around the church and rectory so stay tuned for more announcements on that.

Have a great spring, and I’ll see you at church.

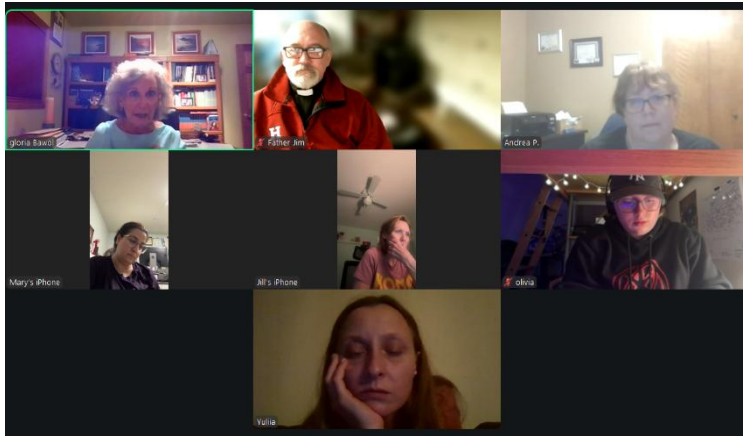
Sincerely,
Jeff Kotelnicki

Chairman All Saints Parish Committee

Friends of Sunday School (FoSS) May 2026 Newsletter by Gloria Bawol

“Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death, he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death, and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death.” Hebrews 2: 14-15.

Dearest friends of All Saints in Sterling Heights.



Our Sunday School program has been keeping very active in the life of All Saints Church. Most important are the lessons taught after Mass on Sunday. This year's lessons reviewed Holy Mass. The Holy Mass is the central act of worship in the PNCC. It is very important that those who attend Mass understand the

meaning behind each part of the Mass to be more actively involved participants. Two examples of recent lessons focused on the Offertory and the Ablution. Father Jim showed the youth his own Paten and Chalice and described the significance to him and the importance during the Offertory part of the Mass. The following week, the students learned about the Ablution, the part of the Holy Mass when the priest cleanses his fingers and vessels that have touched the Body and Blood of Christ. Thank you to all our teachers: Linda A., Gloria B., Mary C., Dima D. and Father Jim. We are also grateful for the teaching done by Father Jim as he is preparing many candidates for Confirmation, a two-year program. We are very thankful for the exceptional job our students do as readers during Sunday Mass. They take turns reading the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, Alleluia and Intentions. This usually occurs monthly, whenever possible.

Easter Season has been a wonderful opportunity for our children to participate in the Mass as Altar Servers and help with special traditions specific to that day. Dima did an amazing job reading the entire Passion during Palm Sunday Mass. Our kids passed out psalms to the congregation and learned to make crosses from psalms. Holy Thursday, Jacob and Olivia allowed Father Jim to wash their feet. Good Friday, the altar servers helped Father Jim as he stripped the Altar. At the Tenebrae Service, Nardin extinguished the candles until only one candle remained lit. Holy Saturday, Michael lit the fire for The Ceremony of New Light. On Easter

Sunday Michael carried the Cross to precede Father Jim holding the Monstrance. He is Risen Indeed!

May Devotions will begin on Friday, May 8th at 7 PM. The youth will offer flowers to our Holy Mother Mary at the beginning of the Service.

Our next Monthly Youth Night will be Friday, May 15th from 5-8 PM. Pizza, beverage and dessert are definite. The project is TBD. Mrs. Gloria will oversee coordinating the evening. Come and bring your friends for social time and fun. June Youth night will be the All-Saints Baseball Game on Saturday, June 6th at 5 PM at UWM Field in Utica MI. It will be Polish Night so plan on seeing dancers and more. Jill Carr will be coordinating this event. More information to come. FOSS will buy the tickets for our youth that will attend. Just put these dates in your calendar.

The last Sunday School class will be Sunday, June 7th. On June 14th, we will be distributing certificates of participation to the members of Sunday School and our teachers. That will also be a very special day for two of our youth. This year, Dima D. will be graduating from The Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies. We will celebrate Dima during the Mass. She has received a scholarship to attend the University of Michigan after high school graduation. Also, a former Sunday School student, Shane C. graduated with a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University this past December. We will also honor him. After Mass, FOSS will provide cake and ice cream to all members of the congregation. In addition, we plan to have a potluck dinner for our entire congregation. Father Jim will provide shrimp. Gloria will provide soup. Andrea will provide fried chicken. Everyone else is asked to bring a dish to share. There will be a sign-up sheet on the back table in the Hall for you to list your dish to share. Please plan to attend and celebrate Dima and Shane on June 14th. They have been outstanding youth members of our church since they were old enough to participate. We encourage you all to bring graduation cards for Dima and Shane.

CONVO Youth Gathering will take place in Jaffrey, New Hampshire at Camp Monadnock from August 3-7, 2026. The theme is "Jesus Said What?" His Parables & Teachings. All students are encouraged to go. Registration is \$150 if made by April 30th. After that it goes up to \$250. FOSS usually pays \$100 for the registration fee. Father Jim has offered to drive any children that would want to go and need a ride. Parents are also allowed to go as volunteers if they are interested.

Summary of Important Dates:

- Friday, May 8th: May Devotion 7 PM present flowers (Devotions every Friday in May)

- Friday, May 15: Youth Night 5-8 PM
- Before Saturday, April 30; Registration due for CONVO Youth Gathering in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.
- Saturday, June 6: All Saints to attend the baseball game at UWM Field in Utica, MI. 5PM
- Sunday, June 7: Last day of Sunday School.
- Sunday, June 14: Celebration of Sunday School students and Graduates. Entire Church Potluck after Mass in the Church Hall. Please bring a dish to pass. Look for sign-up.
- Monday-Friday, August 3-7: Youth Gathering in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. Time TBD

God Bless you all for your support of Sunday School and FOSS. Enjoy the summer months.



cosmos.

June 12–20, 2027
Starting from **\$2,049 per person***

Portrait of Poland

*Prices are based on double occupancy, USD, and include all taxes. Travel insurance, extra nights, airport transfers and airfare are additional. Please inquire. Deposit amount is \$250 per person. Final payment due on April 6, 2027.

Explore with expert Cosmos Tour Directors and Local Guides, complimentary headsets, and private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach with free Wi-Fi. Meals: 8 breakfasts 4 dinners.

Your Tour Includes:

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- Guided sightseeing in Gdansk
- Guided sightseeing in Torun, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Guided sightseeing in Poznan
- Guided visit to Jasna Góra monastery
- Guided sightseeing in Krakow with visit to Wawel Cathedral
- Orientation tour of Zakopane
- Guided visit to Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Optional tours available

- Malbork Castle of the Teutonic Knights in Gdansk
- The Hidden Underground of Wieliczka Salt Mines
- Polish Pierogi Workshop and Tasting
- Authentic Polish Dinner in Warsaw's Old Town

For more details, please see Father Jim who is coordinating this trip for the PNCC

Lector Schedule

May – August 2026

May 3 - Gloria

May 10 - Mike

May 17 - Youth

May 24 - Jennifer

May 31 - Sarah

June 7 - Dima

June 14 - Gloria

June 21 - Kids

June 28 - Jennifer

July 5 - Mike

July 12 - Sarah

July 19 - Youth

July 26 - Dima

August 2 - Gloria

August 9 - Mike

August 16 - Youth

August 23 - Jennifer

August 30 – Sarah

The Sacrament of Matrimony



“No longer two, but one flesh.”

Radosław and Liliia



Congratulations!!!!!!

The Art of Pisanki: Faith, Tradition, and a Few Cracked Eggs

Following Passion Sunday Mass, a wonderful group gathered to “take a crack” at the beautiful Polish tradition of Pisanki—and yes, a few eggs did crack along the way! Led by Carol, this hands-on experience was both joyful and meaningful, blending creativity with rich cultural heritage.



Pisanki, the ancient art of decorating eggs using wax-resist techniques, dates back centuries in Polish and Eastern European tradition. Each design and color carries symbolic meaning, representing life, renewal, protection, and the hope of the Resurrection. It is an art form deeply connected to the Easter season and the celebration of new life in Christ.

Carol generously shared not only her expertise but also a stunning display of dozens of preserved pisanki created by her family over the years—truly inspiring and a testament to tradition passed down through generations. Participants were captivated, and the enthusiasm even carried into the following Sunday with continued interest and involvement.



A heartfelt thank you to Carol for her preparation, patience, and passion in sharing this treasured art. It was a beautiful reminder that faith and culture come alive

when we create, learn, and celebrate together.

A “Joel”ful Visit and a Milestone in Ministry



We were pleased to welcome Cleric Joel Smith, who assisted at Mass on Sunday, March 15th. before departing with Father Jim for the Savonarola Theological Seminary and Institute, where Father Jim serves as an instructor. Joel’s presence was a blessing, and it was wonderful to have

him with us.



On March 19th, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Joel was ordained to the office of Deacon alongside his classmates David, Jon, and Todd. This is a significant step in their vocational journey, and we ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers as they advance in their studies.

In the coming months, they will begin their summer assignment meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that are an integral and creative part of formation at the seminary.

Joel also had the opportunity to attend the recent Polish dance recital, his first! A native of Owen Sound, Canada, it was great for him to experience the richness of our parish life.

An Evening of Polish Tradition and Joy



What an extraordinary evening celebrating the richness of Polish heritage at the Zajączek Dance Ensemble's 21st Annual Recital of Music, Song, and Dance, held on

Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Warren Woods Auditorium. It was truly a night to remember.



Father Jim was honored to offer the opening prayers in both English and Polish, setting a beautiful and reverent tone for the evening. The event showcased the incredible talent and dedication of 99 dancers, whose energy

and precision brought each performance to life.

With over 700 people in attendance, the auditorium was filled with excitement, pride, and a deep appreciation for tradition. Many of our parishioners and friends have been part of this wonderful school, making the evening even more meaningful for our parish community.



From vibrant costumes to spirited music and dance, the entire program was simply outstanding. It was more than a performance, it was a celebration of culture, faith, and community.



From Palms to Crosses



Following our joyful Palm Sunday procession, the celebration continued after Mass in a creative and faith-filled way. With palms in hand, many gathered to learn the art of weaving palm crosses, transforming a symbol of triumph into one of deeper reflection.

Jennifer graciously shared her expertise, guiding us through this meaningful tradition. What seemed simple quickly became a true art form, filled with laughter, patience, and fellowship as each cross took shape. Sharon also created a beautiful crown of thorns from the palms, offering a powerful visual reminder of the journey from celebration to sacrifice.



A special thank you to our talented “palm weavers”—it was like a song in motion—as cross after cross was lovingly made. Many of these were shared with residents at the care facility where Sophie lived, extending our parish’s love and prayer.

A joyful day, rich in tradition, creativity, and the Spirit.

Pierogi Making 101



Amid all the preparations for Easter, one of the true highlights of the season is our Pierogi Making, “Pierogi Making 101.” It’s more than just cooking; it’s a full parish effort that



brings everyone together. From our master dough makers to those with deep Central European roots, and even those just learning the craft, the room is filled with experience, tradition, and plenty of laughter.



The process starts well before the first batch is made. Careful planning goes into gathering the



right ingredients—flour, potatoes, cheese, onions, and all the essentials. Shopping lists are built, supplies are organized, and stations are set up so the work can flow smoothly. Then comes the real magic: mixing, kneading, rolling, filling, and sealing—each step guided by those who have done this for years and are more than willing to pass it on.

What stands out most is the sense of teamwork and pride. Everyone has a role, and every pierogi carries a piece of that shared effort. A special thank you goes to Jill for coordinating the days of pierogi making and keeping everything running on track.

In the end, it's not just about the food, it's about faith, fellowship, and carrying forward a tradition that continues to bring All Saints Parish together.

Young Men's Society of Resurrection (YMSofR) UPDATES



Spring 2026 has been a solid season for the YMSofR, and you can see the brotherhood is strong and moving forward. The **KIELBASA-MAKING** Day brought everyone together for a morning of real work, shared tradition, and good memories—



all for a great cause. Kevin, Dwight, Mike, Father Jim, Bill, and Jeff, along with the rest of the branch, stepped up and got it done. We're not just holding onto tradition—we're sharpening it and doing it better each time.

That same drive pushes us into something new: the **Y'S PRINT STUDIO**. With recently donated equipment, the guys are learning the craft and getting hands-on with production. We're talking about T-shirts, mugs, keychains, napkins, aprons, hats, even pillowcases. The plan is straightforward—be ready for production by

Summer 2026. It's another way to build something together and support the parish in a practical way.

Coming up, Dwight is leading a **MOTHER'S DAY** gathering with light snacks, roses, and mimosas. It's a simple but meaningful way to show appreciation for the women who carry so much for our families and our church.



There's plenty more ahead. The YMSofR **GOLF TOURNAMENT** is set for August 21–23 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course in Scott Township. The Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial **SPIRITUAL RETREAT** is scheduled for June 17–20, and we'll have strong representation at both.

<https://sites.google.com/view/ymsofrmensretreat/home>.

For the youth, **KURS 2026** runs July 4–11. Staff is coming together, and themes are being finalized. Any young person interested should see Dwight—the YMSofR is ready to help financially support those who want to attend.

Bottom line: the work is steady, the spirit is strong, and we're moving forward together.

9th Annual United YMSofR Bishop Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat



“Broken Chains- For God and Country”
“God brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains”

Psalm 107:14

"Each year this retreat gives me an opportunity to unwind, connect, and deepen my sense of faith in Christ"~ 2025 Retreat Attendee

In-Person attendance is \$175 (3 nights) or \$150 (2 nights). This fee includes:

- 4 Day, 3 Night stay at the retreat center.
- All meals, beverages, and snacks.
- Retreat materials and printouts.
- Coal Mine & Museum Tour
- Retreat gift bag.



Paper registration form and check made out to the **"United YMS of R"** for \$175 or \$150, can be mailed to:



Andrew Humphreys – 1054 Hamlin Highway, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Easter Joy



A Blessed and Spirit-Filled Palm Sunday at All Saints



This year's Palm Sunday at All Saints Parish was truly extraordinarily sacred and joy-filled beginning to Holy Week that brought our parish together in faith, reverence, and deep spiritual reflection.



From the opening procession, there was a powerful sense of unity and purpose. With palms in hand, we walked together,



proclaiming “Hosanna!” and entering the mystery of our Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It was more than a reenactment—it was a living expression of our faith, reminding us that we journey with Christ not only in celebration, but also toward the Cross.



One of the most moving moments of the liturgy was the scouring of the cross. This solemn and symbolic act invited us into the suffering of Christ in a deeply personal way. It was reverent, prayerful, and profoundly impactful, helping us reflect on the depth of His sacrifice and love.

The proclamation of the Passion, beautifully delivered by Dima and Father Jim, brought the Gospel vividly to life. Their reading invited us to stand at the foot of the Cross, not as distant listeners, but as participants in the sacred story of salvation. It was a moment that resonated deeply within our hearts.



This beautiful celebration was made possible through the dedicated service of many. A heartfelt thank you to our Altar Society for their meticulous and truly

pulchritudinous preparation of the altars. Their care and attention created a setting worthy of the sacred mysteries we celebrate. We are also grateful to Liliia for her thoughtful work in cleaning and preparing the church.



Special thanks to Andrea for her excellent music selections and seamless coordination of all technology, which enriched liturgy and supported a prayerful atmosphere. And to Michael, Nardin, and Jacob—thank you for your faithful and reverent service at the altar.

The photographs from the day beautifully capture these moments, but even they cannot fully express the joy of the Holy Spirit that filled our church. That joy was real, present, and shared among all who gathered.

As we continue our journey through Holy Week, may the grace of Palm Sunday remain with us, drawing us ever closer to Christ and preparing our hearts for the glory of the Resurrection.



We are beginning preparations for our Summer Concert Series, which will once again take place starting at the end of June 2026. This has become a beautiful opportunity for our parish community and friends to gather, enjoy uplifting music, and share in fellowship during the summer months.

At this time, Father Jim is seeking musicians or musical groups who may be interested in offering their gifts for one of these evenings. We welcome a variety of styles and talents—instrumentalists, vocalists, ensembles, and others who would be willing to share their music in a joyful and community-centered setting.

If you or someone you know may be interested, or if you have any recommendations or contacts, we would be most grateful if you could share that information. Your assistance in helping us connect with talented individuals is sincerely appreciated and helps make this series a meaningful experience for all.

Please feel free to reach out to Father Jim with any leads or questions. Thank you for your continued support in bringing music, joy, and community together at All Saints.

**READING FOR FLAG DEDICATION
IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS J. STACHURSKI**



Being raised May 24, 2026

The family of Frank donates this American flag in memory of their beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother for his 8 years of service in the United States Air Force and his 41 years of membership and service in the Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 169, where he served as Post Commander for 17 years and 3 years as State of Michigan P.L.A.V. Adjutant.

During his years of membership at Post 169, Frank chaired and organized countless fundraising events, the proceeds of which went to serving fellow disabled veterans living at the Grand Rapids V.A. Hospital, the John Dingell V.A. Hospital in Detroit and the Polish Veterans Home in Sterling Heights. He organized the post's annual Palm Sunday trips to the Grand Rapids facility where the post members and their families distributed gift bags, wheelchair cushions and lap blankets, served homemade Polish food, conducted organized activities and visited with the several hundred veterans living there. Throughout the year, he organized group visits made to the John Dingell facility and the annual Christmas visit to the Polish Veterans Home, where again food, gifts and activities were provided to the residents there. His pride in being a veteran and years of tireless dedication and service to fellow veterans of all ages was his passion and is commendable.

May this flag wave not only in memory of Frank's family's pride in his service but of the service, memory and honor of all his fellow comrades to our country. May they rest in well-deserved peace in the beautiful Kingdom of Heaven.

Dear Parish Committee and Parishioners of All Saints, Sterling Heights.

I want to extend a deep thankfulness for the hospitality you showed me when I visited this past March. It was a time of struggle and grieving for me due to the recent loss of my father, and spending time with you all brought warmth and light to that dark time. You showed me how much of a close-knit community and family you all are, and it greatly encouraged me. I wish you all the best, and you are in my prayers continually.

*Sincerely,
Deacon Joel Smith*

May God bless every one of you and your families.



A parish favorite: **Easy Breakfast Casserole**, *submitted by Carol Szydowski*

Ingredients

- 6–8 cups cubed bread (any variety: white, wheat, sourdough, or French)
- 10 large eggs (*or equivalent egg substitute, such as egg beaters*)
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Dash of black pepper
- 1 pound cooked meat (*ham, browned sausage, or ground beef*)
- 1–2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- Butter or cooking spray (for greasing)

Instructions

1. **Prepare the Dish**
Grease a 9×13-inch casserole dish thoroughly with butter or cooking spray.
2. **Layer the Bread**
Fill the dish halfway to three-quarters full with evenly cubed bread.
3. **Make the Egg Mixture**
In a large bowl, beat the eggs. Add milk, dry mustard, salt, and pepper. Mix until fully combined.
4. **Assemble the Casserole**
Pour the egg mixture evenly over the bread, ensuring all pieces are well coated. Sprinkle the cooked meat evenly across the top, followed by the shredded cheddar cheese.
5. **Refrigerate Overnight**
Cover the dish tightly and refrigerate overnight (or at least 6–8 hours) to allow the bread to absorb the mixture.
6. **Bake**
Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).
Bake uncovered for approximately 40 minutes, or until the casserole is set in the center and lightly golden on top.
7. **Serve**
Let stand for 5–10 minutes before slicing and serving.

Variations

- Egg substitutes work well for those with allergies and do not affect flavor significantly.
- Add vegetables such as peppers, onions, or spinach for extra flavor and nutrition.
- Swap cheddar for Swiss, mozzarella, or a blended cheese for variation.
- For a richer dish, use half-and-half instead of milk.

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Easter 5 Holy Mass 10:00 am Altar Society Meets	4	5 Confirmation Class 7:00 pm	6	7	8 May Devotions 7:00 pm	Private Confessions 10:00 am
10 Easter 6 Holy Mass 10:00 am	11	12 Confirmation Class 7:00 pm	13	14	15 May Devotions 7:00 pm Youth Night	16
17 Easter 7 Holy Mass 10:00 am	18	19 Confirmation Class 7:00 pm	20	21	22 May Devotions 7:00 pm	23
24 Solemnity of Pentecost Flag Raising Dedication of New Sign	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 Confirmation Class 7:00 pm	27	28	29 May Devotions 7:00 pm	30
31 Solemnity of Holy Trinity 10:00 am	1	2	3	4	5	6

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	Private Confessions Jimmy John's Baseball Game 5:00 pm
7 Sunday within Corpus Christi	8	9	10	11	12 1 year to Poland Trip	13
Solemnity Word of God 14 Sunday School Celebration and Recognition with Patluck	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Men's	Spiritual	Retreat	Waymart
21 Ordinary 12 10:00 am	22	23	24	25	26 Community Outdoor Concert	27
28 <u>Ordinary</u> 13 10:00 am	29	30	1	2	3	4

**Twenty-Fifth Annual
Mission & Evangelism
Workshop**

**LIVING IN FAITH
EVERY DAY**



St. Joseph's Parish
Polish National
Catholic Church
Westfield, MA
Friday, May 29th
Saturday, May 30th
Sunday, May 31st
2026

Schedule

Friday, May 29, 2026

4 -5 pm - Registration
at St. Joseph Parish, Westfield,
MA

5 pm - Welcome
Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
Bp Paul Sobiechowski

5:15 pm – Dinner

6 pm - Icebreakers
Bishop John Mack

6:30 pm – Family Life of Faith
Mary & Erin Tudryn

6:50 pm Small Group
7:30 pm - Evening Prayer

Return to hotel

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Breakfast at hotel

8:45 am – Morning Prayer

9:10 - 9:30 am – Session II

Testimonies within the Catholic Faith
Joel Smith & Jon Johnson
seminarians of the Savonarola Seminary

9:30 - 10:15 am – Small Group
Share

10:30 - 10:50 am – Session III
Entering into the Life of Christ
Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski

10:50 - 11:30 am - Q & A

11:30 am Break

11:45 am - Group Photo

12:00 - 1 pm - Lunch

1:00 - 1:30 pm – Session IV
Daily Discipleship

John Harrington & Michael Medeiros

1:30 - 2:15 pm – Small Group
Share

2:30 - 3 pm – Session V -

Sharing the Faith via Social Media

Charles Vidas

3 - 3:30 pm – Q & A

3:30 Break

3:45- 4:30 pm – New Members Classes
Bishop Paul Sobiechowski.

4:30 - 4:45 pm – Q & A

4:45 Local Ministry Project

5:15 - 6:15 pm – Dinner
Presentation donations to the charity.

6:30 pm – Commissioning Service
Return to hotel

Sunday, May 31, 2026

10:45 am Morning Prayer

11 am Holy Mass

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky

Brunch following the Holy Mass

And Concluding Remarks

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky

**See bulletin board for registration forms
or email Father Jim for a copy.**

May Birthdays

13 Jeff Kotelnicki
Scott Wechselberger

May Anniversaries

18 Jill/John Carr
18 Darise/Walt McGee

June Birthdays

5 Gloria Bawol
16 Michael Szydowski
17 Judy Zaczek
22 Rody Yezman
23 Lucy Wechselberger
24 Craig Markiewicz
27 Thabet Dauo

June Anniversaries

14 Lucy/Don Wechselberger
20 Marianne/Craig Markiewicz

SERMON: Lent 2A



“Rise, and Do Not Be Afraid”

Genesis 12:1-4 2; Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

As we continue our Lenten journey, the Church places before us readings that are filled not only with challenge, but with promise. Lent is not a season of despair—it is a season of movement. It is a journey upward, a call forward, a time of renewal. And echoing through each of these sacred readings is the steady and reassuring voice of Christ: “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

In the First Reading from Genesis, we encounter Abram at a decisive moment in his life. The Lord calls him to leave everything familiar—his country, his family, his security—and to go to a land that God will show him. There are no details, no clear roadmap, only a promise: “I will bless you... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Imagine the courage that is required. Abram was not young. From a human perspective, his future seemed limited. Yet he trusted, and he responded. Abram rose and went.

That is the essence of faith. Faith is rising when the path is not yet visible. It is trusting that the God who calls us forward will also guide and sustain us along the way. Lent invites us into that same movement—to go deeper in prayer, to go further in repentance, to go beyond a routine or comfortable faith. Growth in holiness always requires a willingness to step into the unknown.

The Psalm reminds us of the foundation of that journey: “Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.” Trust opens the door to grace. When we place our confidence in God, His mercy surrounds us and carries us forward.

In the Second Reading, Saint Paul speaks to Timothy, a young pastor facing hardship. Paul does not minimize the challenges of discipleship. Instead, he speaks honestly: “Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.” The Christian life is not without struggle, but it is never without grace.

Paul reminds us of something essential: we are saved not by our own efforts, but by God’s purpose and grace. During Lent, this truth grounds us. Our fasting, prayer, and sacrifices are not attempts to earn God’s love—they are responses to it. They are ways of opening our hearts more fully to the grace already given.

He goes even further, proclaiming that Christ has “abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” The greatest fear of the human heart has been conquered. The final word over our lives is not loss or failure, but life.

In the Gospel, we are taken up the mountain with Peter, James, and John. There, Jesus is transfigured before them. His face shines like the sun, His garments become radiant, and Moses and Elijah appear, revealing that all of salvation history finds its fulfillment in Him.

The voice of the Father declares, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.”

And yet, the disciples fall to the ground in fear. Even in the presence of glory, they are overwhelmed. We can relate to this. When God begins to work deeply in our lives, calling us to change, to surrender, to grow—we may feel uneasy. We fear what transformation might require.

But the Gospel offers a beautiful and tender moment: Jesus approaches them, touches them, and says, “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

Those words unite all the readings. Abram is called to rise and go. Timothy is called to rise and endure. The disciples are called to rise and trust. And we are called to do the same.

Perhaps today you feel burdened by worry, by uncertainty, by fatigue. Perhaps Lent has revealed areas of weakness or struggle. Hear the voice of Christ speaking personally to you: Rise.

Rise from discouragement. Rise from complacency. Rise from fear about the future or regret about the past.

The Transfiguration was given before the Passion. Jesus allowed His disciples to glimpse His glory so they would remember it in the darkness to come. Lent functions in much the same way. We acknowledge sin and embrace penance, but always with the promise of what lies ahead.

We are not walking toward ashes—we are walking toward alleluia. We are not moving toward fear—we are moving toward light. We are not destined for death—we are called to life everlasting.

So do not remain on the ground. Do not let fear define your faith. Place your trust in the Lord. His mercy will sustain you. Listen to His Son. His glory will strengthen you.

And when He touches your heart—in prayer, in Scripture, in the Eucharist, respond. Rise, and do not be afraid.

For the One who calls you is faithful, the One who saves you has conquered death, and the One who leads you through Lent is already crowned in glory.



SERMON: Institution of the PNCC

“I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches”

Wisdom 5:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; John 15:1-7

In the Gospel according to the beloved Apostle John, our Lord offers us a deeply comforting and powerful image: “I am the vine, you are the branches.” In these few words, Jesus reveals not only who He is, but who we are—and how we are meant to live.

A vine is living, rooted, and life-giving. From it grow the branches, and from the branches come leaves and fruit. Everything is connected. Everything depends on the same source of life. If the connection remains strong, the vine flourishes. If it is broken, life begins to fade.

Christ is the vine. From Him flows the life of the Church—His gift to the world.

When we reflect on the history of Christianity, we can envision the Church as this great vine planted by Christ Himself. From the time of the apostles, the Gospel spread outward from Jerusalem into Asia Minor, Greece, Rome, and far beyond. The Church took root in many lands and cultures, growing and expanding across centuries, yet always nourished by the same divine life flowing from Christ.

As time passed, the branches of this vine became more distinct. One of the most significant moments came in the year 1054, with the separation between the Eastern and Western Churches, often referred to as the Great Schism. From that point forward, we commonly speak of the Orthodox and Western Catholic traditions. Though divided in structure and governance, both remained connected to the same vine—Christ—and both preserved the apostolic faith and sacramental life handed down through the centuries.

Centuries later, another branch emerged. In the late nineteenth century, Polish immigrants in the United States sought to preserve their faith, dignity, and spiritual heritage within their own communities. Through prayer, perseverance, and the leadership of Bishop Francis Hodur, the Polish National Catholic Church was formed. This was not a break from Christianity, but a continuation of it—a living branch rooted in apostolic succession, nourished by the sacraments, and guided by the Gospel.

Like every authentic branch of the Church, it draws its life from the same source: Jesus Christ.

Our Lord reminds us, “Abide in me as I abide in you.” These words are essential. The life of the Church does not come from buildings or institutions alone. Structures may support us, but they do not give us life. The true life of the Church flows from our union with Christ. Without Him, we cannot bear fruit. This image also helps us understand our place within the Church.

If Christ is the vine, and the Church forms the branches, then we—the faithful—are like the leaves. Each one is unique. Each receives life from the vine through the branch. Together, we form the beauty and vitality of the living Church.

Some leaves are prominent and visible, catching the light. Others are hidden among the branches, quiet and unseen. Yet each one is essential. In the same way, every person in the Church matters. Some serve publicly in visible roles. Others serve quietly through prayer, kindness, generosity, and steadfast faith. Each contribution, whether seen or unseen, strengthens the whole.

Scripture reminds us that faithfulness is not always recognized by the world. The Book of Wisdom speaks of the righteous being misunderstood, only to be revealed in glory before God. And Saint Paul encourages us to remain grounded in truth, sanctified by the Word of God and sustained by prayer, even amid challenges.

When we look at the Polish National Catholic Church today, we see this living vine continuing to grow. We see the faith of generations who came before us and the dedication of those who serve today. Through the sacraments, through worship, through teaching, the life of Christ continues to flow. With every baptism, a new leaf appears. With every act of love and faith, the branches grow stronger.

And so, we must ask ourselves: Are we remaining connected to the vine? Are we nourishing our lives through prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments? Are we

allowing Christ’s grace to flow through us so that we may bear fruit—fruit of love, service, patience, and faithfulness?

Because when we remain in Christ, everything changes. The vine flourishes. The branches grow strong. The leaves reflect beauty and life to the world.

And so, we return to the words of our Lord: “I am the vine; you are the branches.”

Christ is the source of all life. The Church, in all its history and expression, remains part of that living vine planted by God. May we remain faithful branches. And may our lives—like leaves upon the tree—reflect the beauty, strength, and grace that come from abiding always in Christ.†

SERMON: Lent 4A



“He Went and Washed, and Came Back Able to See!”

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

“He went and washed and came back able to see.” These words capture a moment of profound transformation in the Gospel—the healing of the man born blind. Yet this is more than a physical miracle. It is a story about faith, obedience, and the opening of the human heart to the light of God.

This passage reminds us that blindness is not only a condition of the eyes. There is also spiritual blindness, and each of us experiences it in different ways throughout our lives.

The Gospel presents a striking contrast. The man who was blind gradually comes to see—not only with his eyes, but with his soul. Meanwhile, the Pharisees, who consider themselves experts in the law and guardians of truth, remain unable to see what is clearly before them. They question, debate, and resist, refusing to accept the reality of the miracle.

It calls to mind a familiar truth: there are none so blind as those who will not see.

We encounter a similar lesson in the First Book of Samuel. When the prophet Samuel is sent to anoint a new king from among the sons of Jesse, he naturally assumes that the strongest and most impressive candidate must be God’s choice. Yet the Lord corrects him, saying, “The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look

on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” It is the youngest, David—the overlooked shepherd—whom God chooses.

Once again, human vision proves limited, while God sees with perfect clarity.

In the Gospel, this pattern unfolds again. The Pharisees analyze the situation through rules and arguments yet fail to recognize that God has acted. A man has been healed. The evidence stands before them. Yet they remain blind. By contrast, the man who had been blind begins to perceive the truth. His physical sight is restored, and at the same time, the light of faith begins to grow within him.

A simple illustration brings this point home. In a well-known story, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are camping together. During the night, Holmes wakes Watson and asks him what he sees. Watson describes the stars in detail—the galaxies, the grandeur of creation, the wonder of God. Holmes listens, then replies, “Watson, you fool—someone has stolen our tent!”

Watson saw much but missed what mattered most.

In a similar way, the Pharisees focus on complexities but overlook the obvious: God is at work.

This Gospel invites us to reflect on our own lives. Where might we be blind?

Each of us has blind spots. We may be blind in our relationships, unaware of how we affect others. We may be blind in our habits, unable to recognize patterns that lead us away from God. Pride, anger, jealousy, or selfishness can cloud our vision and prevent us from seeing clearly.

At times, we may even be blind to God’s presence. Though He dwells within us through grace, we can move through our days without awareness of Him. We may fail to see Christ in those around us—the struggling, the overlooked, the ones most in need of compassion.

Saint Paul speaks directly to this reality: “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light.” To live as Christians means learning to see differently—to recognize truth, to perceive goodness, and to respond with love.

There is also broader blindness in our world today. Society can become blind to the value of human life, to the beauty of selfless love, and to the dignity of the human person. It can grow indifferent to suffering and numb to truth.

Christ calls us beyond this, to live as children of the light. But how do we receive that light?

The answer is found in the simple response of the blind man. When Jesus tells him to go and wash, he does not question or delay. He obeys. And through that act of trust, everything changes.

Christ desires to heal our blindness as well. When we turn to Him in prayer, listen to His Word, and receive the grace of the Sacraments, our vision begins to clear. We start to see God’s presence more clearly, recognize the needs of others, and walk more faithfully in His light.

A beautiful prayer expresses this journey: “Help us to see Christ more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly day by day.” This is the path of the Christian life—a continual opening of our eyes and hearts.

Today, we ask the Lord to remove whatever blinds us—our pride, our fears, our selfishness—so that we may walk fully in His light. Like the man in the Gospel, may we trust His voice, follow His command, and receive the healing He offers.

For when we place our faith in Him and respond with trust, something extraordinary happens: He went and washed, and came back able to see. †

SERMON: Palm Sunday



“Watch With Me for One Hour?!”

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Today we enter into the most sacred week of the Church’s year. We begin with palms in our hands and voices lifted high: “Hosanna!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” There is movement, energy, and joy as Jesus enters Jerusalem as King.

Yet we know something the crowds did not fully understand. This triumph will not last in the way they expected. The same voices that cry “Hosanna” will soon cry “Crucify Him.” The palms will give way to the Cross.

And at the center of this turning point, we hear one of the most personal and searching questions of our Lord: “Could you not watch with me one hour?”

This question is not addressed only to Peter, James, and John. It is addressed to each of us. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus enters into deep agony. The weight of sin, suffering, and what lies ahead presses upon Him. He knows the betrayal is coming. He knows the Cross awaits. And in that moment, He does not call for escape or power—He asks for companionship. “Stay here... watch with me.” But they fell asleep. And if we are honest, so do we.

How often do we begin with enthusiasm, like the crowd on Palm Sunday? We make our promises. We feel strong in our faith. We say, “Lord, I will follow You anywhere.” But then life intervenes. We grow distracted. We become tired. We lose focus.

And gradually, almost without noticing, we drift. Not because we do not love the Lord, but because we struggle to remain attentive, faithful, and watchful. This is part of the human condition.

Peter, James, and John were not indifferent or uncaring. They were chosen. They were close to Jesus. They had witnessed His miracles and heard His teachings. Yet even they could not remain awake in that critical hour.

Imagine the weight of those words when Jesus asked, “Could you not watch with me one hour?” There must have been regret, a quiet realization of failure—not out of rejection, but out of weakness.

And that is where this Gospel meets us. We know what it is to fall short. We know what it is to look back and say, “I should have prayed.” “I should have been more patient.” “I should have done what was right.” These moments do not define us, but they reveal our need.

And here is the Good News: Jesus does not abandon His disciples.

He does not turn away from them. He returns to them. He calls them again. Even in their weakness, even after their failure, He continues to draw them into His mission. And He does the same for us.

Palm Sunday is not only about triumph—it is about the beginning of the journey to redemption. It reminds us that the Christian life is not about flawless performance, but about faithful perseverance.

To “watch with Christ” means to remain spiritually awake. It means to be attentive to His presence. It means to return, repeatedly, whenever we drift.

This Holy Week, the Church invites us into that watchfulness. To watch in prayer. To watch in silence. To watch through sacred liturgies. To watch within our own hearts. Even for one hour.

One intentional hour with the Lord can transform us. One hour in which we simply say, “Lord, I am here. I may be weak, distracted, or tired—but I choose to remain with You.”

Because the truth is, He has never stopped watching over us. Even when we wander. Even when we fall asleep spiritually. Even when we fail. He remains faithful.

So today, as we hold our palms, we must also look toward the Cross. This is not a week to rush through or observe from a distance. It is a week to enter deeply. Walk with Him. Stay with Him.

Watch with Him.

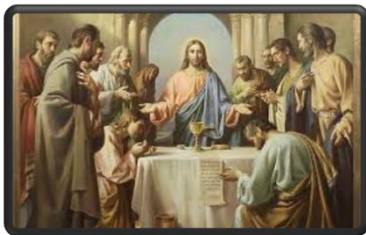
And when you find yourself drifting—as we all do—do not give up. Do not walk away. Simply return.

For the Lord who asks, “Could you not watch with me one hour?” is the same Lord who gives us the grace to do so. And this sacred week, though it leads us through suffering and sacrifice, does not end in darkness. It leads to resurrection.

But first, we must watch. Even for one hour.



SERMON: Holy Thursday



“Love One Another as I Have Loved You”

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

On this sacred evening, we gather at the threshold of the most solemn and profound days of our faith—the Holy Triduum. Tonight, we are invited into something far deeper than remembrance. We enter a living mystery, one that unfolds before us in real time: the love of Christ poured out completely—without hesitation, without condition, without limit.

The Gospel from the Apostle John brings us into the Upper Room. There we hear the powerful words: “Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” This is not simply a statement of affection—it is a declaration of total self-gift. Jesus knows what lies ahead. He knows betrayal is near. He knows suffering awaits Him. He knows the Cross stands before Him. And yet, rather than withdrawing, rather than protecting Himself, He chooses to love more deeply.

And how does He reveal that love?

Not through displays of power or grandeur, but through humility. He rises from the table, removes His outer garment, and kneels before His disciples. The Lord of heaven and earth takes the posture of a servant and begins to wash their feet.

This is the Mandatum—the commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

This is not a love of convenience or comfort. It is not love expressed only in words. It is a love that bends low, that serves, that gives of itself completely. In this moment, Jesus redefines greatness. Holiness is not found in status or recognition, but in service. It is found in humility, in sacrifice, in placing the needs of others before our own.

Peter, as we hear, struggles with this. He resists. And perhaps we understand why. It can be difficult to accept such intimate, undeserved love. It can be even more difficult to offer it. Yet Jesus responds with clarity: “Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.” Before we can love as Christ commands, we must first allow ourselves to be loved by Him.

Tonight, we also witness the institution of the Holy Eucharist—the gift of His Body and Blood. The same Jesus who kneels to wash the feet of His disciples now prepares to give Himself entirely. What begins here at the table will be completed on the Cross. The Eucharist and service are inseparable. We cannot receive the Body of Christ and remain indifferent to the needs of His Body in the world.

As this liturgy continues, we encounter another profound moment: the stripping of the altar. The beauty of the sanctuary is gradually removed—the linens, the candles, the adornments—until all is laid bare. This is not merely symbolic; it is deeply theological.

It reflects Christ Himself, who will be stripped of His garments, stripped of dignity, stripped of all comfort. It prepares us for the stark reality of Good Friday.

What has been familiar and comforting is taken away, allowing us to enter, even if only in part, into the desolation of that sacred night.

The altar, once the place of nourishment and presence, becomes empty. And in that emptiness, we are invited not to leave, but to remain—to watch, to pray, to accompany our Lord in His agony. This is the beginning of Gethsemane, the long night of surrender.

The Holy Triduum now unfolds as one continuous act of worship: tonight's sacred meal, tomorrow's sacrifice, the silence of the tomb, and ultimately, the glory of the Resurrection. But we must not rush ahead. We are called to remain here, to dwell in the quiet, to embrace humility, to enter fully into surrender.

Tonight, then, we are called to three things.

First, to receive Christ's love—to allow Him to cleanse and restore us.

Second, to imitate that love—to serve others with humility, compassion, and generosity.

And third, to remain with Him—to keep watch, to pray, and to be present in His suffering.

My brothers and sisters, as we depart in silence, may our hearts remain in that Upper Room. May we carry with us the image of our Lord kneeling before us. And may His command echo within us—not as a burden, but as a gift:

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

For this is the night when love began to pour itself out—and that love will not cease until all is fulfilled.



SERMON: Easter Sunday



“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made; Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad.”

Acts 10:34-43; Col 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today is not simply another Sunday. It is not merely a date on the calendar. Today is the day, the day that changed everything. The day when death was defeated, the

tomb was found empty and hope itself rose from the grave. This is Easter. This is resurrection. This is life.

And so, with full hearts, we proclaim: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

Yet, if we return to the Gospel, we are reminded that this day did not begin in celebration. It began in darkness. It began in grief. It began with uncertainty and sorrow.

The women went to the tomb early in the morning carrying spices, expecting to anoint the body of Jesus. They were not expecting a miracle. They were not anticipating resurrection. They were simply doing the next faithful thing during heartbreak.

How often does that reflect our own lives?

We carry burdens. We carry grief. We carry unanswered questions. There are moments when the future feels unclear, when hope seems distant, and when the weight of life presses upon us. Like those women, we move forward as best we can, doing what is right, even when we do not yet see the full picture.

But then, God acts. The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. The message is proclaimed: *“He is not here; He has risen!”* In that moment, everything changes. And not just for them—but for us.

Because Easter is not merely an event of the past. It is a living reality. It is the power of God breaking into our present. It is the assurance that no darkness is too deep, no burden too heavy, and no situation beyond redemption.

The resurrection declares that sin does not have the final word. Failure does not have the final word. Even death itself does not have the final word. God does and His word is life.

This is why we rejoice. Not because every struggle disappears overnight, not because life suddenly becomes easy, but because Christ is risen—and His victory is shared with us.

Where there was despair, there is now hope. Where there was fear, there is now courage.

Where there was death, there is now life.

And this Easter joy is not meant to remain within the walls of the Church. It is meant to be lived, shared, and proclaimed. We are an Easter people, people shaped by the resurrection.

That means we live differently. We speak with kindness and conviction. We love more deeply. We forgive more freely. We hope more boldly. We trust more fully.

Why? Because we know something the world often forgets: the tomb is empty. And because the tomb is empty, all things are possible with God.

Perhaps today you arrive with a heavy heart. Perhaps there is something in your life that still feels like Good Friday—something painful, unresolved, or uncertain.

Hear this clearly: Easter speaks into that very place. God is not finished.

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you. The same God who rolled away the stone can remove the obstacles in your life. The same Christ who conquered death walks with you even now.

So do not lose heart. Do not give in to discouragement. Do not believe that your story has ended. Resurrection is what God does. And today, we are invited not only to remember that truth, but to live it, to embrace it, to rejoice in it.

Let your faith rise. Let your hope rise. Let your joy rise. Live with renewed confidence. Love with renewed purpose. Trust with renewed strength. Because this day, this very day, is not ordinary. It is holy. It is powerful. It is filled with grace. It is the day the Lord has made.

And so, with grateful hearts and voices lifted in praise, we proclaim once more:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!



SERMON: Easter Sunday 2A



“Peace be with you!”

Acts 4:32-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Peace Be with You: A Living Invitation

On this Second Sunday of Easter, we find ourselves once again in the Upper Room. The doors are locked. Fear lingers in the air. The disciples are unsettled—burdened

not only by what they have witnessed, but by their own failures, their moments of weakness, and their uncertainty about what comes next. It is into this very space—into fear, into doubt, into brokenness—that the Risen Lord Jesus Christ appears and speaks words that continue to echo through time: “Peace be with you.”

These are not simply gentle or comforting words. They are powerful, life-giving, and transformative. They restore what has been lost. They heal what has been wounded. They gather what has been scattered. And they send forth those who receive them. These words were not spoken for the apostles alone—they are spoken for us, here and now.

It is from this moment that we begin to understand the life of the early Church, so beautifully described in Acts 2:42–47. After the Resurrection, after receiving the peace of Christ, everything changes.

The disciples are no longer hiding. They are no longer divided. They are no longer afraid.

They become a community, alive, united, and filled with purpose.

Scripture tells us that they devoted themselves to four essential pillars: the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers. These were not random practices; they were the natural fruit of hearts transformed by Christ’s peace.

First, the apostles’ teaching. The early Christians grounded their lives in the truth of Jesus Christ—His death and His Resurrection. They did not treat it as a passing moment, but as the very foundation of their lives. This same foundation is given to us. In a world often filled with noise and competing voices, we are called to root ourselves firmly in Christ, seeking to know Him more deeply and to live according to His truth.

Second, fellowship—*koinonia*. This is more than simple friendliness; it is a profound sharing of life. It is unity of heart and purpose. The early believers cared for one another so deeply that no one was left in need. Imagine what it would mean for our parish to live this fully—where no one feels alone, and every person is known, welcomed, and loved.

Third, the breaking of the bread—the Holy Eucharist. This is the very heart of the Church. The same Jesus who stood among the disciples in the Upper Room stands

among us still, offering Himself to us. This is not merely symbolic—it is real presence, real communion, real life given for the life of the world.

And fourth, the prayers. The early Church was deeply rooted in prayer—not only in moments of need, but continually. Prayer was their lifeline, their connection to the living God who had transformed their fear into courage.

What was the result of such a life?

Scripture tells us that awe came upon everyone. There were signs and wonders. There was generosity, joy, and sincerity of heart. And most strikingly, “the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

People were drawn to them—not because of programs or buildings, but because they witnessed something real. They saw peace. They saw unity. They saw love lived out. And they desired it.

This is not merely a story from the past, it is a vision for the present. What happened then can happen again. What took place in that first community can take place here, among us.

But it begins as it did in the Upper Room, with receiving the peace of Christ. When we truly receive His peace, we are changed. We forgive each other more readily. We love more deeply. We give more generously. We invite others—not out of obligation, but out of joy.

And even when we struggle, even when we doubt like Thomas, Christ still comes to us. He does not condemn. He meets us where we are and speaks once more: “Peace be with you.”

My brothers and sisters, this peace is real. Christ is risen. His Church is alive. And what we have been given is not meant to be kept, but to be shared.

Let us live it. Let us invite others into it. For the Lord who added to their number daily is still at work today—and He desires to do so through us.

Peace be with you.



SERMON: The Sacrament of Matrimony



“No longer two, but one flesh.”

Genesis 1:26-28, 31; 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8; Matthew 19:3-6

Dear Radosław and Liliia, dear family and friends, and especially dear Yuliia,

Today we stand together in a moment that is both beautiful and sacred. This is not simply a celebration of love as the world understands it—this is a moment in which God Himself is present, blessing, uniting, and calling. From the very beginning, as we heard in the Book of Genesis, God created man and woman in His image, and when He looked upon His creation, He said it was very good. Today, we see that goodness again—in you, Radosław and Liliia, and in the family, you are forming together.

Your love is not случайное (*loo- chai - nuh-yeh*), it is not accidental. It is part of God’s design. You have been brought together not only to share life, but to reflect something of God Himself. For when a man and a woman give themselves fully to one another in love, they mirror the faithful, life-giving love of God.

The Psalm today reminds us: “I will bless the Lord at all times.” That is not just a beautiful line, it is a way of life. Marriage is not only about the easy days, the joyful celebrations, or the moments of laughter. It is also about the challenges, the sacrifices, the moments when faith must be stronger than feelings. In all these moments, bless the Lord. Praise Him in the joy and trust Him in the struggle. For when God is at the center, every moment has meaning.

St. Paul gives us the clearest vision of what your marriage must be built upon: love. Not a passing emotion, not a fleeting feeling, but a steadfast, enduring, sacrificial love. “Love is patient, love is kind... it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” This kind of love is not always easy, but it is always powerful. It is the kind of love that forgives quickly, listens deeply, and gives generously.

Radosław, you are called to love Liliia with strength and tenderness. Liliia, you are called to love Radosław with trust and grace. And together, you are called to build a home where love is not just spoken but lived.

And in the Gospel, our Lord Jesus reminds us of the sacredness of what you enter today: “The two shall become one flesh... what God has joined together, let no one separate.” This is not merely a contract; it is a covenant. God Himself joins you. He binds your lives together in a unity that is spiritual, emotional, and eternal.

So today, as you begin this new chapter, remember this: you are not alone. God walks with you. His grace strengthens you. His love surrounds you.

And to all of us gathered here, this is also a reminder. Love is real. Love is holy. And when we remain in love, as we heard in the Alleluia, we remain in God.

Radosław and Liliia, may your home be filled with laughter, your hearts filled with peace, and your lives filled with God’s presence. And may you, together with Yuliia, grow each day as a family rooted in faith, hope, and above all, love that never fails.



Easter Sunday 3A

“What Sort of Things?”

Acts 2:14, 22-28; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

On the afternoon of the first Easter, two disciples made their way along the road to Emmaus. They were not walking toward hope, but away from it—away from Jerusalem, away from the community, away from what they believed had ended in disappointment and failure. Their conversation was heavy, their pace slowed by sorrow and confusion. And then, quietly and unexpectedly, the risen Lord drew near.

What is most striking is not only that Christ joins them, but how He does so. He does not begin with a proclamation, a correction, or even a declaration of who He is. Instead, He asks a question: “What are you discussing with each other as you walk along?” And then, as they begin to speak, He asks again, “What sort of things?”

This is the risen Christ—the One who knows all things, who sees their hearts, their grief, and their misunderstanding. Yet He asks. Why? Because questions have a unique power. They open the human heart in ways that statements alone often cannot. They invite rather than impose. They create space for reflection, for honesty, and for encounter.

The Church has long understood that Saint Luke, a close companion of Saint Paul, authored both the Gospel that bears his name and the Acts of the Apostles. Together, these two works form a unified vision: first, the life and ministry of Christ, and then the life of the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. In both, we see a consistent pattern. Jesus engages others not merely by speaking, but by drawing them out—by asking, by listening, and then, at the right moment, by revealing truth.

This pattern offers a profound lesson for us. We often feel that we must have every answer ready, that we must explain or defend the faith perfectly. Yet Christ shows us another way. Good teachers may provide good answers, but the greatest teachers ask meaningful questions. Evangelization, at its heart, often begins not with speaking, but with listening.

“What are you discussing?”

“What sort of things?”

These are not casual inquiries. They are invitations that communicate care, respect, and genuine interest. They say, “Your story matters.” And when a person feels truly heard, the soil of the heart begins to soften. Questions have the power to prepare that soil—to stir reflection, awaken longing, and create space for grace.

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus does not immediately correct the disciples. He walks with them. He listens patiently, even as they struggle to understand. This is the quiet work of grace: to accompany, to listen without rushing, and to care enough to remain present.

We see this same grace in a beautiful and living way in the Baptism of Savana Ruth. In Baptism, we do not begin with complete understanding. A child comes forward not with answers, but with openness. The Church surrounds her with faith, love, and promise, and even at the font, we begin with questions: Do you renounce sin? Do you believe in God? These questions are not barriers, they are doors. Through them, grace enters.

In the waters of Baptism, Savana Ruth is drawn into the life of Christ. And we, as a community, accept a sacred responsibility: to walk with her, to guide her, and to help her grow in faith. One day, she will ask her own questions—about purpose, about God’s presence, about what truly matters. When that day comes, may she encounter a Church that listens, that walks beside her, and that gently leads her to Christ.

This calling extends to each of us. In our daily lives, we encounter people who are searching, whether a student uncertain of the future, a neighbor burdened by unseen struggles, or a loved one facing illness. Often, what they need most is not immediate answers, but a listening heart.

Simple questions can open profound conversations: “What is weighing on your heart?” “What are you searching for?” “What truly matters to you?” In asking, we relinquish the need to fix everything and instead allow the Holy Spirit to work.

When the moment is right, when hearts are open, then comes the proclamation: Christ is risen. He is Lord. He is present.

The road to Emmaus reminds us that the most powerful witness we can offer may not be louder words, but deeper listening. Not more arguments, but better questions, asked with sincerity and love.

For it was a question that began the transformation on that road, and it remains a question that can still open hearts today:

“What sort of things?”



SERMON: Easter 4A, Good Shephard Sunday

“What Are We to Do?”

Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

It Can Happen Today: “What Are We to Do?”

As we continue our Easter journey, our parish is walking together through a six-part series rooted in the Acts of the Apostles. Week by week, we are not simply recalling the story of the early Church—we are rediscovering its power, its movement, and its meaning for our lives today. This Sunday’s message centers on one simple yet deeply transformative question:

“What are we to do?”

In the reading from Acts, Peter stands before the crowd at Pentecost, no longer the fearful disciple we once knew, but a man transformed by the Holy Spirit. He speaks with clarity and conviction, proclaiming that Jesus, whom they crucified, is both Lord and Messiah. His words are not distant or abstract; they are direct, personal, and filled with truth. Scripture tells us that the people were “cut to the

heart,” moved not just in thought but in spirit. Something within them awakened, and in that moment of realization, they asked the question that changes everything: **“What are we to do?”**

This question marks a turning point. It is the moment when hearing becomes responding, when belief begins to take shape in action. Peter’s answer is simple yet profound: *“Repent and be baptized.”* It is not a message of condemnation, but an invitation—an invitation to turn, to begin again, and to open one’s life to the grace of God. It is a call to step into something new, something life-giving, something rooted in hope.

On this same Sunday, as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, the Gospel deepens this message with a powerful image. Jesus says, *“I am the gate.”* Through Him, we are invited not only into salvation, but into a life of care, protection, and peace. A gate is not meant to keep people out, but to welcome them in, and Christ stands as the one who opens the way. This invitation is beautifully echoed in the Psalm: *“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want... He restores my soul.”* Together, these readings remind us that God is always calling, always inviting, always drawing us closer.

And so, the question asked at Pentecost is not confined to the past—it is alive in us today. Each of us, in our own way, is called to ask: **What are we to do?** Perhaps it is a call to return more deeply to prayer, to trust more fully in God’s care, or to release something that has been weighing on our hearts. As a parish, it is also a call to continue growing—not only in number, but in faith, in love, and in mission. The early Church grew because people responded; they listened, they believed, and they shared that belief with others.

There are many today who are quietly asking that same question, even if they cannot yet put it into words. They are searching for meaning, direction, and hope. We have something beautiful to offer—not just an answer, but a relationship with Christ, the Good Shepherd, who calls each of us by name. Through simple invitations, genuine kindness, and faithful witness, we help others see that the gate is open and that they are welcome.

As we continue this Easter series, may we carry this question with us—not as a burden, but as an opportunity to respond to God’s grace and to share that grace with others. For the same Spirit that moved hearts at Pentecost is still at work today, and the question still echoes in our hearts and in our world: **What are we to do?**

Post. Pray. Renew.

Place This Prayer on Your Refrigerator!

Please consider making this prayer part of your weekly prayer life.

Weekly Prayer for All Saints

Dear Lord, I pray that All Saints will be invigorated and strengthened with all power, according to the might of Your glory, to exercise every kind of endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to You, Jesus.

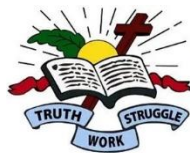
Help us walk in union with You, having our roots firmly planted in you. Build us up. Purify us. Help us to show tender-hearted pity, mercy, kindness, gentleness, and patience with each other and with our community.

Give us the power to endure whatever comes our way with good temper. If we have a grievance or complaint against another help us work, it out in Your Love. Help us to forgive each other as you Lord, have freely forgiven us. Help us put on Love which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony.

Whatever we do in word or deed, let it be done in the name of the Lord Jesus and in Your Spirit. Teach us how to agree about anything and everything and have clarity in all the decisions that need to be made. May we meet the needs of the people who come-spirit, soul and body.

We thank you for the facility that can more than meet the needs of the ministry You have called us to. Help us prosper financially so that we have more than enough to meet every situation.

Make us a supernatural church, composed of supernatural people, doing supernatural things for YOU! We thank YOU for YOUR PRESENCE among us and we lift our hands and praise YOUR HOLY NAME! AMEN





VOLUNTEER

Join the All Saints Parish Technology Team!



Let us know how you want to help. Send an email to:
AllSaints5555tech@gmail.com

Willing to train, mentor and sign service hours for time donated.

**Spread the Gospel, work from home, service hours fulfilled,
gain a new skill, and have fun! Get connected!**