

Grace and peace to you in the joy of the Risen Christ!

As we welcome the vibrant months of May and June, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for the many blessings that God continues to pour out upon us. These spring and early summer days are alive with color, warmth, and signs of new beginnings—echoing the life-giving power of the Resurrection that we continue to celebrate throughout this Easter season.



May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Mother Mary, the Mother of God and our spiritual mother. Her faith, humility, and unwavering trust in God continue to inspire us. As she proclaimed, *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”* (Luke 1:46–47), so too may our lives become a living song of praise and service to God. On Mother’s Day, we give heartfelt thanks for all mothers—biological, spiritual, and adoptive—who nurture life, faith, and love in our homes and communities.

To our students moving on to new chapters, whether from kindergarten, high school, college, or beyond, we say *congratulations!* Your accomplishments reflect perseverance and grace. As Scripture reminds us, *“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established”* (Proverbs 16:3). We are proud of you and pray for your continued success and faithfulness.

As we transition into June, the liturgical calendar leads us to profound spiritual feasts that anchor our identity as the People of God. We begin with **Pentecost**, the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. This event is not merely historical; it is alive in us today! The Spirit empowers us to proclaim the Gospel with boldness, just as the Apostles did. *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses”* (Acts 1:8). May we open our hearts anew to the fire of God’s Spirit.

Following Pentecost, we observe the **Solemnity of the Word of God**, reminding us that God not only reveals Himself in majesty but speaks to us intimately through Sacred Scripture. Let us recommit to being people of the Word—reading it, praying it, and allowing it to shape our hearts and lives.

Later in June, we celebrate the **Solemnity of Corpus Christi**, the Body and Blood of Christ. This Eucharistic feast calls us to deepen our love for the Sacrament that nourishes our souls. As Jesus said, *“I am the living bread that came down from heaven... whoever eats this bread will live forever”* (John 6:51). In a world hungry for truth, hope, and healing, may we find our strength at the altar, where Christ gives Himself to us fully.

And, of course, we give thanks to our fathers on Father’s Day, those who provide, protect, guide, and sacrifice for their families. Like St. Joseph, may all fathers be blessed with courage, faith, and deep trust in God’s providence.

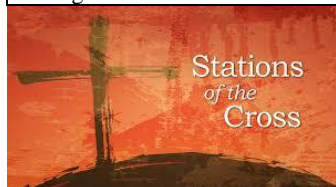
These months offer us opportunities for celebration, reflection, and renewal. I encourage you to remain actively engaged in the life of our parish—through worship, community gatherings, service projects, and prayer. Bring a friend. Invite someone back to church. The Holy Spirit moves through *you*. And every person in our pews adds to the richness of our shared life in Christ.

May this season refresh your soul, strengthen your spirit, and inspire your walk with the Lord.

In Christ’s abiding love,
Fr. Jim+

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Lenten Devotions Offered

Great Lent 2025



As part of our parish's observance of Great Lent 2025, we prayerfully offered two deeply meaningful liturgical services: Gorzkie Żale (Bitter Lamentations) and the Stations of the Cross. These devotions, rich in tradition and spiritual depth, guided our community in meditating on the Passion and suffering of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Gorzkie Żale, a cherished Polish Catholic devotion, was sung on Sundays throughout Lent, helping the faithful reflect on Christ's agony through poignant hymns and heartfelt lamentations. The poetic structure and solemn tone drew participants into a profound spirit of sorrow, repentance, and love for the suffering Savior.

The Stations of the Cross, prayed on Fridays during Lent, offered a spiritual pilgrimage through the final hours of Christ's life. As we moved from station to station, we recalled His journey to Calvary—His falls, His encounters, and ultimately, His crucifixion. This devotion helped us to unite our own sufferings with His and to deepen our understanding of His redeeming love.

We are grateful to all who attended and participated in these sacred services. Your presence and prayerful reverence made this Lenten journey a time of grace, spiritual renewal, and preparation for the joy of the Resurrection.

May these devotions continue to nourish our faith and draw us closer to Christ.

Diocesan Youth Gathering

The deadline to register for our Diocesan Youth Gathering is quickly approaching! Be sure to submit your registration by **May 31** to secure the discounted price of **\$150**. This fee covers all meals, activities, and plenty of fun-filled experiences. After May 31, the cost will increase, so do not delay! The Youth Gathering will be held from **July 21 to 24** in **Morgantown, Indiana** and promises to be an exciting time of faith, fellowship, and adventure. If you have not yet received the registration materials or need them resent, please email us, and we will be happy to assist you. Do not miss out on this incredible opportunity to grow in faith, make new friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dear Parish Family,

Happy Easter! As we continue to celebrate this joyful season of resurrection and renewal, I want to extend a warm thank you to everyone who contributed to our Easter lunch. Your kindness and generosity helped make it a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration.

Thank you also to all who volunteered for our pierogi making! Last I heard, over 200 dozen were made! Great job everyone. Your hard work and team spirit were greatly appreciated! We're already looking forward to the next session, which will most likely be in the fall.

Looking ahead, we'll be holding our **Spring Church Cleanup Day** on **Saturday, May 24**. We'll be working both inside and outside the church. As you know, many hands make light work, so please consider volunteering to help keep our parish beautiful. A sign-up sheet is posted in the church hall — we'd love for you to join us.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to support our parish and each other.

With appreciation,

Jeff Kotelnicki

Chairman All Saints Parish Committee



Easter Egg Hunt, Food, and Games: A Celebration of Joy and Tradition

This Easter season, our parish grounds were alive with the laughter of children, the enthusiasm of youth, and the joy of adults, young at heart. Colorful eggs, Sour Patch candies, chocolate treats, lively games, and—most importantly—the love of Christ brought us together in a beautiful display of community and faith.



Amid the solemnity of Holy Week, the growing tradition of the Easter Egg Hunt offered a moment of pure joy, creating smiles and cherished memories for all who participated. It was a wonderful reminder that even in the shadow of the Cross, we look forward with hope to the glory of the Resurrection.



The tradition of the Easter Egg Hunt dates to the 17th century when it became popular in Germany. Eggs, symbolizing new life, were hidden for children to find, linking the ancient symbol of rebirth to the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. German immigrants later



brought this custom to America, where it has since flourished into a beloved Easter tradition.

We are grateful to all who made this year's celebration such a success. May the joy we share continue to inspire us throughout the Easter season!



Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese: "Triduum Retreat" *by Father Jason Soltysiak*



Resurrection PNC Parish in Temperance, MI served as the host site for the annual Seniorate Lenten Retreat, beginning at 10am on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

A breakfast of coffee, juice, bagels, muffins, fruit, donuts, and more welcomed the more than three dozen retreat attendees from Ohio and Michigan. At 10:30am, the bell rang, which signified the faithful to enter the church for a welcome by Administrative Senior of the Northeast Seniorate, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak.



Father Senior Nowak informed everyone of the scope of the retreat, the layout of the church and hall, and everything else we needed. He then launched into the opening session on the Triduum, Holy Thursday. He spent a bit of time speaking on the scope of the Lenten Season and then hitting the main topics of the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders. He detailed changes in the church's history regarding the use and (re)implementation of the "Mandatum," or the washing of feet. He also made sure to detail the nuances that are unique to the Holy Thursday Liturgy: reception of Holy Oils, silencing of bells after the Gloria, procession to the altar of repose, consecrating extra hosts for the next day.



After a short break, Rev. Dr. Jim Ploskonka began a session on Good Friday. Father Jim detailed specifically what was going on in the life of Christ in the events of Good Friday noted in Scripture as well as how we chronicle those events in our liturgy. From the adoration of the cross to the Passion according to the Apostle John to the liturgy of the pre-sanctified, Fr. Jim detailed all of these, culminating with the saving Blood of Christ shed for us in His death. He then spoke of “one of our own” who shed his blood for his love of Christ, the Rt. Rev. Joseph Padewski, martyr of the Polish National Catholic Church. Fr. Jim showed the group present a portion of a project play he has been working on that recounts portions of the life of the martyred bishop.



After another break, Rev. Jason Soltysiak led our final session Holy Saturday. Fr. Jason first focused on the theme of “waiting” that is present on this day Jesus reposed in the grave and on the idea that is evident in the Apostle’s Creed of Jesus’ “descent to the dead” and what it means to the Church’s history. The second theme was “newness” and how the liturgy of Holy Saturday creates and embraces the newness of fire, light, candle, water, oil, baptisms, and renewal of baptismal vows.

Each presenter had a PowerPoint presentation to aid his words, with a set-up made possible by the famous “LC Productions.” After the set-up was removed, Rev. Greg Gronn, offered a Lenten themed penitential service, assigning the “penitential psalms” as a penance.



A lunch followed, prepared by the faithful of Resurrection PNCC and after hearty goodbyes, a prayerful time together concluded. Thank you to the host parish for all that they offered the faithful of our Western Diocese’s Northeast Seniorate.



The Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese attendees

Friends of Sunday School (FOSS) by Gloria Bawol

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and ... we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him.” 1 John 3:2

Dearest friends of All Saints in Sterling Heights,

Our Sunday School program has been exploding with activities. The first and most important is the lessons taught after Mass on Sunday. These lessons review the Gospel and reinforce the importance of Jesus’ words to our everyday life in school, family and with friends. Thank you to all our teachers: Linda A., Gloria B., Mary

The March: All Saints

C., Dima D., Olivia K., and Father Jim. We are also grateful for the teaching done by Father Jim as he, on Saturdays is preparing Yuliia K. for First Holy Communion and Michael P. for Confirmation. Yuliia will make her First Holy Communion on May 25, 2025, during Mass. Please try to attend Mass that Sunday to celebrate her. We are very thankful for the exceptional job our students do during Sunday Mass when they read 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. On Palm Sunday our kids passed out psalms to the congregation. Holy Thursday, Jacob allowed Father Jim to wash his 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, Olivia lit the fire for The Ceremony of New Light. On Easter Sunday all youth participated in the Procession and dropped flower pedals to precede Father Jim holding the Monstrance. He is Risen Indeed!

Our Monthly Youth Nights have continued to be a hit with the kids. Olivia K oversaw March. The kids did a game night and had a Lenten friendly feast of Mac and Cheese and a cute make-your-own dessert of a “dirt cup” with chocolate dipped strawberry “carrot”. April fell on pierogi making night, so Gloria encouraged the kids to help out the church by doing the prep work. They enjoyed cheese pizza and dessert then went to work. Many peeled potatoes for the first time. They stuffed the containers into the plastic bags and separated the wire ties. With their help, the adult work went much faster, and we were able to leave the church earlier than in the past. May’s youth night will occur on May 16th from 5-8 PM. We will again be doing a service project for others. Michael P. is coordinating many activities from All Saints Church to assist the Veterans from a home in Chesterfield, MI. The youth project to be done is to make patriotic double-sided placemats that will be laminated for each Veteran to be used on their dining tables. The goal is to deliver the placements to the Veterans on 5/24, time to be determined. The placemats will be used for Memorial Day and July 4th. May 24th might also be a clean-up of the grounds outside the Veteran home. This will help to prepare for the Veteran Walk which is a fund raiser for the Veterans. The Walk will be held at the Veteran’s Home on June 7th. More information about the Walk will be forthcoming and all members of All Saints are invited to participate. The plan for the June 20th Youth night will be to take the kids to a Movie Theater. Time, location and movie choice is to be determined.

May Devotions will begin on Friday, May 2nd at 7 PM. The youth will offer flowers to our Holy Mother Mary at the beginning of the Service.

It is hard to believe, but the end of Sunday School will be Sunday, June 8th. At the end of Mass, certificates of participation will be awarded to the members of Sunday School and our teachers. That will also be a very special day for one of our youths. Olivia K. will be graduating from Almont High School this year. We will celebrate Olivia during Mass. After Mass, FOSS will provide cake and ice cream to all members of the congregation. Please plan to attend and celebrate Olivia. She has been an outstanding youth member of our church since she was old enough to participate. We encourage you all to bring a card for Olivia wishing her congratulations. To celebrate the end of Sunday School, FOSS is planning to purchase the entry fee for each youth to go to the Detroit Zoo on June 22. Details to be determined.

Youth Gathering will take place in Morgantown, Indiana July 21-24th. The theme is “God’s Kingdom Builders “. Michael will be going for sure. All students are encouraged to go. Registration is \$150 if made by May 31st. After that it goes up to \$200. FOSS usually pays \$100 for the registration fee. Father Jim plans on going as he is part of the planning committee. He 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 2: May Devotion 7 PM present flowers (Devotions every Friday in May)
- Friday, May 16: Youth Night 5-8 PM
- Saturday, May 24: Deliver Placemats to Veteran's Home, Time TBD
- Sunday, May 25: Yuliia's First Holy Communion at 10 AM
- Before Saturday, May 31; Registration due for Youth Gathering In Morgantown, Indiana
- Sunday, June 8: Last day of Sunday School, Celebration for Olivia after Mass
- Sunday, June 22: FOSS visit to the Detroit Zoo, Time TBD
- Monday-Thursday, July 21-24: Youth Gathering in Morgantown, Indiana. Time TBD

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



Congratulations, Olivia!

It is with great joy and pride that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Olivia on her recent acceptance into the School of Nursing at Oakland University! This remarkable achievement marks an exciting new chapter in her academic and professional journey—a testament to her hard work, dedication, and

compassion for others.



Located in Rochester, Michigan, Oakland University is a prestigious public research university known for its rigorous academic programs and commitment to excellence in healthcare education. Its School of Nursing is recognized for producing highly skilled, compassionate nurses prepared to serve in a variety of medical settings. Most recently, Oakland University made national headlines with its men's basketball team achieving a stunning victory over the University of Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA tournament, an incredible moment that captured the spirit and determination that defines Oakland's community.

In addition to her academic success, Olivia remains a devoted and engaged member of our parish. Her active involvement in church life and ongoing service on the Seniorate Council of the Northeast Seniorate demonstrate her deep commitment to faith, leadership, and service. She has consistently offered her time, talents, and heart to support parish initiatives, embodying the values of Christian discipleship in both word and deed.

As she embarks on this new journey at Oakland University, we pray that God continues to bless and guide Olivia in her studies and future vocation. May she always find strength in her faith and inspiration in the community that supports her.

Congratulations once again, Olivia! Your parish family is so very proud of you!

Help Us Spread the Word – Our Hall is Available for Your Next Special Event!

Do you know someone looking for a space to host a family celebration, special gathering, or business meeting? Our parish hall is available for rent and offers a warm, welcoming, and well-equipped venue for a wide range of events. We invite you—not only to consider it for your own needs—but to share this opportunity with friends, neighbors, coworkers, and community organizations.

Facility Highlights:

- **1,956 Sq. Ft. of Banquet Space** – Comfortable seating for up to 130 guests
- **350 Sq. Ft. Kitchen Area** – Accommodates catered or pre-prepared food and beverages
- **P.A. Sound System** – Ideal for announcements, speeches, or background music
- **Flat Screen Television** – Perfect for photo or video presentations
- **Ample, Well-Lit Paved Parking** – Convenient and secure for all attendees



Perfect for Hosting:

- Baby & Bridal Showers
- Birthday & Graduation Parties
- Anniversary & Wedding Masses/Receptions
- Funeral Masses/Receptions
- Special Event Masses and Celebrations
- Group & Business Meetings
- Any occasion that calls for a clean, comfortable, and affordable space

As members of our parish family, you are our best ambassadors. We encourage you to mention our hall rental opportunity to friends, local groups, or professional contacts who may be planning an event. Your recommendation could make a big difference—and help us serve the wider community with hospitality and care.

For inquiries, availability, or to schedule a tour, please contact:

Call 248/877-0921 - Dwight

Together, let's make our parish hall a place where community happens—one gathering at a time.



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564886520166>



<https://allsaintspncc.org/>

*Please connect with us on
Facebook and visit our
website for the latest
updates and **information**.*

Chrism Mass Celebrated at St. Mary's in Cleveland

On Tuesday, April 15, 2025, during the sacred days of Holy Week, clergy and lay from across the Western Diocese gathered with the faithful at St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church in Cleveland, Ohio, for the annual Chrism Mass. Presiding over this solemn liturgy was Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, joined by the Very Reverend Charles Zawistowski and other diocesan clergy.



The Chrism Mass is one of the most significant liturgies in the Church's calendar, traditionally celebrated during Holy Week. It highlights the unity of the priesthood and the deep connection between the clergy and their bishop. During the Mass, the bishop blesses the three holy oils that will be used throughout the year in the administration of the sacraments: the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism.

Sacred Chrism—fragrant and consecrated with a solemn prayer—holds particular importance, as it is used in Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. The oils, freshly blessed, are then distributed to each parish for their liturgical use.

This evening was one of reverence, thanksgiving, and spiritual renewal. It reminded all in attendance of the sacred call to service and the anointing that marks the life of every believer in Christ.



Holy Week and Easter Liturgies: A Grateful Celebration



Throughout Holy Week, our parish gathered in prayer and reflection, beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing through the solemn liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday with the service of Tenebrae, Holy Saturday, and culminating in the joyous celebration of Easter. Each liturgy offered an opportunity to walk with Christ through His Passion and rejoice in His Resurrection.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to all who generously gave of

their time, talents, and treasures to make these sacred celebrations so beautiful and meaningful. Your dedication and service are a true testament to the spirit of our parish community.



We are especially blessed to share the good news that we experienced a 78% increase in attendance at our Solemn





Mass of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday over prior year. This remarkable growth is a powerful testimony to the vibrant life of our parish and to the joy of the Risen Lord,

who continually calls us to renewal and hope.



May the blessings of Easter continue to fill our hearts with faith, hope, and love in the weeks ahead!

Information regarding the Reception of the Holy Eucharist Baptized Christians who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist and have prepared themselves through the Sacrament of Penance are invited to partake of this Holy Sacrament. It is the practice of the PNCC to distribute the Holy Eucharist through the method of intinction. The Body of Christ is immersed into the Precious Blood and is placed on the tongue and not in the hand of the communicant. Come and let us be one with our Lord.

Rich in Faith, Wise in Wealth: A Catholic Christian Financial Guide

Saturday, May 10th

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Lunch provided



Are you looking for a way to manage your finances while staying true to your faith? This study will help you discover how to use God's wisdom to guide your financial decisions—whether it's budgeting, saving, giving, or planning. Together, we'll explore biblical principles of stewardship and practical steps to financial freedom, all through a Catholic lens. Join us for an enriching journey toward faith-filled financial peace!

**Reverend Jim Ploskonka, PhD
All Saint Parish
Sterling Heights, MI**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Pierogi Cutter Sales for Mothers' Day	2 May Devotions and Crowning of St. Mary	3 National United Choirs Mtg
4 Holy Mass at 10:00 am Parish Committee Mtg	5 Winter Term ends for Seminary	6	7	8	9 May Devotions at 7:00 pm	10 Financial Planning Workshop 10am to 3:00 pm
11 Holy Mass at 10:00 am Youth Reading Mother's Day	12 Clergy Conference	13 Clergy Conference	14 Clergy Conference	15	16 Youth Night: Placemat Making++ 5:00 – 8:00 pm	17 Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Bishop Padewski
18 Youth Veterans Placemat Making Holy Mass at 10:00 am Parish Committee Mtg	19 Summer Term begins for Seminary	20	21	22	23 May Devotions at 7:00 pm	24 Youth visit Veterans Home Paish Clean-up Day
25 Holy Mass at 10:00 am First Holy Communion	26 Memorial Day	27 National YMSof R Meeting	28 Last Days to submit early registration for Youth Gathering	29	30 Mission and Evangelism workshop	31 Mission and Evangelism workshop

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
¹ Holy Mass at 10:00 am	² Sacred Vocations Month and Clergy Appreciation Month	³	⁴	⁵	⁶	⁷ Veterans 5K Walk
⁸ Holy Mass at 10:00 am Pentecost Solemnity Youth Reading Youth Recognition Laying on of Hands for Graduates	⁹	¹⁰	¹¹ Feast of Barnabas	¹²	¹³	¹⁴
¹⁵ Solemnity Holy Trinity Holy Mass at 10:00 am Pot Luck Brunch	¹⁶	¹⁷	¹⁸ YMS of R Men's Retreat	¹⁹ YMS of R Men's Retreat	²⁰ YMS of R Men's Retreat Youth Movie Theater Night	²¹ YMS of R Men's Retreat
²² Holy Mass at 10:00 am Detroit Zoo Trip	²³	²⁴ Solemnity of John Baptist	²⁵	²⁶	²⁷ Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	²⁸
²⁹ Solemnity of the Word of God Holy Mass at 10:00 am	³⁰					YMS of R Kurs starts

Polish Meatballs (Klopsiki)

An authentic and comforting main dish from the heart of Polish cuisine, perfect for family meals and Sunday dinners.

- **Prep Time:** 15 minutes
- **Cook Time:** 45 minutes
- **Total Time:** 1 hour
- **Yield:** Approximately 24 meatballs (1x recipe)
- **Category:** Main Dish
- **Method:** Boil and Bake
- **Cuisine:** Polish



Ingredients (1x recipe)

- 1 medium onion, finely diced
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 pound ground pork
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup dry breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 3/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 6–8 cups beef broth (prepared from bouillon cubes or stock)

Optional Sauce (choose one):

For Sour Cream–Mushroom Sauce (Klopsiki w Sosie Śmietanowo-Grzybowym):

Prepare a creamed mushroom sauce using 1 cup sour cream (instead of heavy cream) for a rich and tangy flavor. Add the baked meatballs to the sauce and simmer gently. Adjust thickness with additional broth as needed. *Pairs wonderfully with creamy mashed potatoes.*

For Tomato Sauce (Klopsiki w Sosie Pomidorowym):

Mix 1/4 cup brown sugar into two 15-ounce cans of tomato sauce. Pour the sweetened sauce over the meatballs and return to the oven to bake for an additional 10–15 minutes

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).
2. In a skillet over medium-high heat, sauté the finely diced onion in butter until soft and translucent. Remove from heat and cool slightly.
3. In a large mixing bowl, combine ground beef, ground pork, beaten eggs, breadcrumbs, milk, salt, pepper, and garlic powder.
4. Once cooled, stir the sautéed onions into the meat mixture. Mix thoroughly until evenly combined.
5. In a large pot, bring the beef broth to a gentle simmer.
6. Shape the meat mixture into uniform balls, approximately 1 ½ inches in diameter (about the size of a golf ball).
7. Carefully drop the meatballs into the simmering broth in batches. Simmer for about 5 minutes, or until they float to the surface. Remove with a slotted spoon and place on a baking sheet.
8. Once all meatballs are parboiled, transfer the baking sheet to the oven and bake for 20–25 minutes, or until the internal temperature reaches 165°F (74°C).
9. Finish with your choice of sauce or serve as it is.

Serve warm alongside a generous helping of mashed potatoes, which perfectly complement either the mushroom cream or tomato sauce variations.



As we joyfully celebrate birthdays and anniversaries within our parish family, let us lift these individuals, couples, and their loved ones in heartfelt thanksgiving to God. May the Lord bless them abundantly with continued health, happiness, and the grace to walk always in His love. Through each year of life and every milestone of marriage, may their journey be filled with faith, hope, and the joy that comes from serving the Lord together.

May Birthdays			June Birthdays	
13	Jeff Kotelnicki		5	Gloria Bawol
	Scott Wechselberger		16	Michael Szydlowski
22	Jordan Hill		17	Judy Zaczek
			22	Rody Yezman
			23	Lucy Wechselberger
			24	Craig Markiewicz
			27	Thabit Dauo
May Anniversaries			June Anniversaries	
5	Sharon/Frank Stachurski		14	Lucy/Don Wechselberger
18	Jill/John Carr		20	Marianne/Craig Markiewicz
18	Darise/Walt McGee			

Additional Church and Affiliate Websites:

Polish National Catholic Church
www.pncc.org

Western Diocese PNCC
www.westerndiocese.org

National United Choirs
<https://nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com/>

Polish National Alliance www.pna-znp.org

Spojnja Credit Union (SCU)
www.spojniacreditunion.org

Additional Church and Affiliate Facebook
 Information: Polish National Catholic
 Church Western Diocese PNCC

National Youth Convocations (Convo '26)
 National United Choirs

National Young Men's Society of
 Resurrection

God's Kingdom Builders

Western Diocese Youth Gathering 2025



**Come
Join
Us**



**Come
Join
Us**



**July
21-24**



**Walnut
Ridge
Retreat
Center**



Experience: Nature + Christ + Communion + Joy + Service + Games + Activities

Build: Memories + Community + Foundations + Friendships



The March: All Saints

Word Search

O A V K E S C G U C J Q G R S
 J S Z U N M O H E M L S A V E
 U W A H P H P Y W S F O D J Q
 C N Q N S H E O C N U R U J U
 U K D F O N W V W O L K A D E
 A X N E O I C M F E U O L P N
 W Q X O R R N Z F F R N E B C
 R O Q M W S T T H L B M S P E
 W E V K O L T I I D A Z E E R
 L I N U W S E A T N M M K N L
 I P S E T H E D N U G F E D T
 G I W D W T S D G D D C M O L
 H E I D O A H C B E I E O V X
 T T N L Q M L J F E G N E E S
 B Y D T S S V W V O S W G Q T

Understanding	Empowerment	Fortitude	Piety
Knowledge	Sequence	Wisdom	
Counsel	Flame	Cloud	
Renewal	Anointing	Light	
Dove	Wind		

A little boy was kneeling beside his bed, praying loudly.

"Dear God, please bless Mommy and Daddy... and give me a new bike for my birthday!"

His mom walked in and said, "You don't have to shout, sweetie. God isn't deaf."


The boy looked up and said, **"I know, but Grandma's in the next room—and she's hard of hearing!"**

Word Scramble

TNEANOMTE	_____
CICFIASER	_____
RLYGO	_____
TMURPIH	_____
RCAEG	_____

Let's Make It a Community Effort

Whether it's setting out a form at work, sharing on social media, or mentioning it during a friendly chat, every little bit helps. Together, we can extend the reach of this fundraiser and share the joy of faith, food, and fellowship.



Perfect Gift for Mother's Day!

Personalized Pierogi Cutter
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United Y.M.S. of R.

of the

Polish National Catholic Church

1005 Pittston Avenue

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Office (570) 346-9131

www.pncc.org



Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Advisor

Rev. Carmen Bolock, Organization Chaplain

Mr. Nicholas Kazinetz, President

April 25, 2025

Feast of Mark, Evangelist

My dear brothers of the Polish National Catholic Church:

What a year of blessing and hope 2025 has been for the Polish National Catholic Church. Our dioceses have seen increase in clergy and men in religious formation, and we like to remain adamant in our work to provide annually a spiritual sanctuary for any and all men; clergy, laypeople, and those hearing a call.

This is our eighth iteration of our Men's Spiritual Retreat in Waymart, PA, graciously monikered: "Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat." Bishop Bilinski offered our organization so much support as the idea for this event was being formed, made manifest by his presence and participation. It takes place this year Wednesday-Saturday, June 18-21, 2025, and we are retaining a cost of \$150 per attendee

Our retreat is titled "For us Men, and for our Salvation" and reflects the desires of the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, which was exactly 1700 years ago. We will be providing teaching, worship, and meditations on the Holy Trinity, as deemed so important by the Early Church. Our highlight will be our participation in the Corpus Christi Procession about 15 minutes off-campus at St. Adalberts PNCC in Dickson City, PA.

The retreat will feature 3 square meals a day, daily Mass with a sermon, daily reflection before the Most Blessed Sacrament, presentations and prayers that are all situated in a schedule that has proven to be well-paced for growth but slow enough for relaxation. The Great Hall is the site for our daily meals, with the back area featuring a fully-stocked game room for any scheduled (or even unscheduled!) downtime.

Save the date! We prayerfully invite you to be with the men of our beloved church for a few days before summer begins. For info, visit the United YMSofR Facebook page or register today on our retreat site: <https://sites.google.com/view/ymsofrmensretreat/home>

Sincerely in Jesus Christ our Lord,

2025 Bp. Stanley Bilinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat Planning Sub-Committee



The Way of the Cross: Stations of the Cross

Walking with Christ in His Passion

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we reflect on a sacred journey—one that has been walked for centuries, one that calls us to walk with our Savior. The Way of the Cross is more than a devotion; it is an invitation to enter the very heart of Christ's suffering and love. It is a journey that has shaped the faith of countless Christians throughout history, and today, it remains as relevant as ever.

But why do we walk this path? Why do we meditate on the suffering of Jesus? Because in His suffering, we find the greatest love ever known. In His sacrifice, we find the depth of God's mercy. And in His death, we find the promise of new life.

From the earliest days of Christianity, believers longed to walk where Jesus walked. Pilgrims traveled to Jerusalem, retracing His final steps, stopping at the places where He suffered, fell, and ultimately gave His life. But as time passed and travel became difficult, the faithful sought a way to make this journey in their own communities.

We do not need to set foot in the Holy Land to enter Christ's Passion. Every church, every home, and even the quiet spaces of our hearts can become the Via Dolorosa—the Way of Suffering—where we walk beside our Lord.

But this journey is not just about remembering. It is about transformation.

Each of the fourteen stations tells part of the story—the betrayal, the falls, the encounters with His mother, Simon, and Veronica, the crucifixion, the burial. At each station, we pause and reflect, not just on what happened to Jesus, but on what is happening in our own lives.

Because we all carry crosses.

- Some bear the cross of illness or suffering.
- Others carry the cross of broken relationships, grief, or loneliness.
- Many in our world today carry the cross of persecution, injustice, and fear.

And yet, Jesus invites us to walk with Him. He does not remove the cross, but He shows us how to carry it—with love, with surrender, and with trust in the Father's will.

In a world that often tells us to avoid suffering at all costs, the Way of the Cross teaches us something different:

- It teaches us that suffering can be redemptive.
- It teaches us that love is sacrificial.
- It teaches us that, even in our darkest moments, God is with us.

My friends, the Stations of the Cross do not end in death. They lead us to the empty tomb!

As followers of Christ, we are called not just to walk this journey for ourselves, but to walk it for others. To be like Simon, helping someone else carry their cross. To be like Veronica, showing love and compassion in moments of pain. To be like Mary, standing faithfully by the suffering, never turning away.

Brothers and sisters, let us make this journey together. Let us walk the Way of the Cross with courage, with love, and with the certainty that beyond the cross is the empty tomb.

Let us take up our crosses and follow Him—not just today, but every day of our lives.



Sermon: ASH WEDNESDAY

“We are ambassadors for Christ.”

Ash Wednesday: the one-day Catholics sport a visible reminder of repentance—and someone inevitably tries to wipe it off!



This solemn day echoes the ancient Jewish tradition of sackcloth and ashes, symbolizing penance. The Old Testament recounts how Nineveh, King Ben Hadad, and Queen Esther fasted in repentance. Early Christians did the same for public penance. Today, the Church calls us to fasting and conversion. The prophet Joel urges heartfelt transformation, St. Paul reminds us we are Christ’s ambassadors, and the Gospel warns against hollow rituals. True fasting and prayer must reshape our souls, not just our routines. Lent begins—let it be more than skin deep!

Ash Wednesday is more than a tradition—it is a wake-up call. As the priest places ashes on our foreheads in the form of a cross, he utters words that cut through the noise of our daily lives: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return, but your soul belongs to God.” This is not simply a reminder of our mortality—it is a summons to action.

We are running out of time. Life is brief, unpredictable, and fragile. The ashes we receive are a stark reality check: our days on this earth are numbered, and we do not know when our time will come. They are a warning against complacency, an urgent plea to set aside sin, and an invitation to reconciliation with God. Like the prodigal son, we are called to return—not with empty words, but with hearts truly open to change.

Lent is not a season for passive observance, it is a season for decisive transformation. The ashes on our foreheads are not merely symbolic; they are a declaration that we accept the challenge of spiritual renewal. This renewal requires effort, discipline, and commitment. It demands that we confront our sinful tendencies, strip away the distractions that separate us from God, and reorient our lives toward holiness.

Fasting is not simply about self-denial—it is about gaining strength. It disciplines the body, clears the mind, and sharpens the soul. It strips away our reliance on material comforts and exposes our deeper hunger—the hunger for God. We fast not to punish ourselves, but to break free from the chains of sin and addiction that weigh us down. Just as Christ fasted in the wilderness to prepare for His ministry, we fast to prepare our hearts for the work God is calling us to do.

True repentance is more than regret—it is action. It is the courage to admit our faults, the humility to seek forgiveness, and the grace to extend mercy to those who have wronged us. We cannot claim to follow Christ while holding onto resentment. We cannot ask for God’s forgiveness while refusing to forgive others. Reconciliation is not optional, it is essential.

Lent is a time to deepen our prayer life—not just in words, but in intention. Prayer is not just speaking; it is listening. It is making space for God’s voice to guide us, to correct us, and to fill us with His grace. Without prayer, fasting becomes mere dieting, and repentance becomes mere regret. With prayer, our sacrifices gain meaning, our struggles gain purpose, and our hearts draw closer to God.

Ash Wednesday is not just a day to receive ashes—it is a day to be marked for mission. We are not meant to keep this faith to ourselves; we are meant to share it, to live it boldly, and to be living testimonies of God’s grace. The world does not need more lukewarm believers—it needs ambassadors for Christ.

Let the ashes not be a fleeting symbol, but a permanent commitment. Let this Lent not be routine, but revolutionary. Let us rise to the challenge, embrace the call, and go forth with purpose.



We are ambassadors for Christ.

Sermon: Lent 1C

Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13

“You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.”



Stepping Into the Wilderness: A Lenten Reflection

Picture this: Jesus, weary and fasting, stands in the wilderness, face to face with the devil. Temptation whispers, offering power, comfort, and control. But He resists—not with force, but with the Word of God.

As we begin our Lenten journey, we too are called into the wilderness—not a literal desert, but a season of self-reflection. Where are we tempted? What voices pull us away from God? Lent is not just about giving things up; it’s about *realignment*, about turning our hearts fully toward Christ. It’s about walking with Him, leaning on His strength, and allowing His Word to nourish and sustain us.

The readings for this first Sunday of Lent remind us of this call to trust in God’s providence. The first reading recalls the ancient Jewish practice of offering first fruits—a sign of gratitude for God’s deliverance from Egypt and His provision through years of struggle. Psalm 91, which Satan quotes in his temptation of Jesus, reminds us that true security comes not from power but from trust in God. St. Paul, in the second reading, warns the early Christians not to slip back into old patterns of relying on laws and rituals but to embrace the living relationship with Christ.

Then, in the Gospel, we see Jesus’ confrontation with temptation. This isn’t just about three specific challenges in the desert: it’s about His entire ministry. Satan tries to divert Him from His mission—to become a political Messiah, to use His

divine power for comfort and personal gain, to avoid suffering and sacrifice. Yet Jesus chooses obedience, trust, and faithfulness.

The True Nature of Temptation

We often think of temptation as external, chocolate cake calling our name, the temptation to overspend, or to let loose a harsh word in frustration. But what if our greatest temptations aren't about things at all? What if temptation is *internal*, a struggle between who we are and who God is calling us to be?

That's what Jesus faced. He was tempted to take the easy way out, but He stood firm. And here's something easy to overlook *it was the Spirit who led Him into the wilderness*. The same Spirit that descended at His baptism, the same Spirit that empowered the prophets, the same Spirit that hovered over the waters at creation. The Spirit didn't lead Jesus into temptation to see if He would fail but to help Him *clarify His mission*.

And maybe, just maybe, the same is true for us.

Lent: More Than Just Giving Up Chocolate

Too often, we focus on Lent as a time to give up small comforts—desserts, social media, or a daily indulgence. While those sacrifices can be meaningful, they can also be distractions that keep us from facing the *real* temptations in our lives.

What if we used Lent to go deeper? To ask the hard questions?

- Am I becoming the person God created me to be?
- Am I numbing myself with distractions instead of dealing with what's truly in my heart?
- Am I choosing comfort over calling?

Our greatest temptation isn't food, money, or power. It's *running from ourselves*. It's settling for a shallow, distracted life instead of facing what God is asking of us.

God Saves Us Through Our Temptations

St. Anthony once said, "*Without temptations, no one can be saved.*" That may sound strange at first but think about it: God doesn't *remove* our struggles; He walks *through* them with us. Every time we avoid self-examination; we turn away from the transformation God desires.

So, what are you running from? Maybe it's a wound you haven't healed, a fear you won't admit, or a calling you keep pushing aside. Maybe it's not even something negative—maybe it's your own God-given gifts that you're afraid to embrace.

But here's the truth: No matter how far we run, we cannot escape ourselves. And we cannot escape God. The Spirit is persistent, leading us into the wilderness—not to punish us, but to transform us.

Jesus didn't just *resist* temptation; He *transformed* it. He used it to clarify and deepen His mission. He didn't say no to bread, power, or safety just to prove a point—He said no because He was saying *yes* to something greater.

That same choice is before us today. Will we avoid the hard work of transformation, or will we step into the wilderness with courage, trusting that God is leading us toward something greater?

Because in the end, the real temptation isn't about *what we want*, it's about *who we trust*. And as Jesus reminds us:

“You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.”



Eulogy for Sophie Szydlowski



We gather here today in love and remembrance of a truly remarkable woman, Sophie Szydlowski. At 101 years of age, she was not only a beloved mother, wife, and friend, but also the matriarch of All Saints Parish, a pillar of faith and devotion whose presence shaped this community in ways both seen and unseen. She was a motivator, an inspiration, and above all, a servant of Christ who longed to be with her Lord and Savior. Today, we honor her life, her legacy, and the love she shared with all of us.

Sophie's journey on this earth was one marked by deep faith, unwavering commitment, and an unshakable love for her family, her church, and her Lord. Her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and her leadership of the Altar Society were not simply duties she performed—they were expressions of her soul, acts of love offered to God and to this community. She took great pride in ensuring that the altar was properly cared for, that the clothes were clean and ironed, that the

sanctuary reflected the reverence due to our Lord. She understood that in caring for the house of God, we express our love for God Himself.

But Sophie was more than just a caretaker of sacred things; she was a caretaker of souls. She loved people deeply, and she always spoke of those closest to her heart. Her family, especially her grandchildren, were a source of endless joy and pride. She carried them in her heart, lifting them up in prayer, desiring nothing more than for them to know and love Christ as she did. She also spoke often of this parish—of the priests who had served here, of the parishioners who had walked these halls, of the sacrifices and work that went into building All Saints into the church we know today. This place was not just a building to her; it was her home, her family, the foundation of her faithful journey.

Sophie's greatest desire was reconciliation—within her family, within her church, and within the hearts of all who knew her. She understood the power of unity and forgiveness, of letting go of past hurts and embracing one another with the love of Christ. If there was division, she wanted healing. If there was strife, she wanted peace. Her wisdom, drawn from a century of life experiences, taught her that nothing is more important than love, and she carried that lesson with her always.

Her life was a testament to resilience. Sophie was part of the generation that built this country through hard work and sacrifice. As a “Rosie the Riveter,” she contributed to a moment in history when women stepped forward in ways they never had before, strengthening the backbone of our nation. She lived through wars, economic hardships, social changes, things that could have shaken her, but instead, they only reinforced her faith. Through it all, she remained steadfast, always coming back to her relationship with Jesus, her parish, and her family.

I had the great privilege of visiting Sophie many times as her priest. Those visits were always filled with warmth and faith. We would begin speaking in Polish—well, *she* would speak, and *I* would listen, nodding along with a simple “*Tak, tak.*” Then, we would switch to English, and I would once again nod along with “*Yes, yes.*” But our visits always ended the same way—with Sophie asking for the one thing she longed for most: the Body and Blood of Christ. “*Give it,*” she would say, eager to receive her Lord. That simple request, those two words, held profound meaning. They were an expression of her faith, her longing for Jesus, her desire to be in communion with Him. That is the heart of who Sophie was—a woman whose soul hungered for God.

Sophie's presence remains alive in this parish. Her name is spoken in sermons, found in newsletters, mentioned in conversations. She has shaped this place, not just physically but spiritually. Her example of devotion and love will continue to inspire those who walk through these doors, who kneel before this altar, who serve in this church.

And if she were here today, I believe she would have a few things to say. She might first turn to Sharon and the Altar Society with a smile and say, *"Good job, the altar cloths are straight and ironed correctly."* Then she might turn to all of us and say, *"Can't you all just get along? Whatever is wrong, end it and get along."* And finally, with a bit of her signature wit and a heart full of joy, she would say, *"I'm having a perfect funeral... and now, I am with Jesus."*

Sophie, you have achieved the fulfillment of all you hoped for, all you longed for. You are now in the presence of your Savior, in the embrace of eternal love. You leave behind a legacy of faith, love, and devotion that will continue to shape us all. We thank you for your life, for your example, for your love.

May the Lord receive you with open arms, may you find rest in His presence, and may your soul rejoice forever in the light of His love.

Rest in peace, dear Sophie. You will be missed but never forgotten. Amen.



Sermon: Lent 2C "Listen to Him"



Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17 - 4:1, Luke 9:28-36

These words of the Father, spoken in today's Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, are more than just a command. They are an invitation to transformation, to a spiritual renewal that begins with Christ.

Brothers and sisters, have you ever watched one of those dramatic makeover shows? There's something captivating about seeing something old become new again. We love a good transformation story! But today's readings offer the ultimate makeover—not of our homes or appearances, but of our very souls.

On this Second Sunday of Lent, we are invited into a supernatural transformation, a heavenly renewal beyond anything we could imagine. And the best part? God Himself is leading this divine renovation.

At the heart of our readings is the Transfiguration—Jesus revealing His divine glory before Peter, James, and John. But this was not just a spectacle for the disciples; it was a calling for all of us. We, too, are called to be transfigured, to radiate Christ’s light in a world clouded in darkness.

Transformation, however, requires a process. Abraham had to trust God’s promise. Paul had to leave behind everything he once knew. And Jesus? Before the Resurrection, He first embraced the suffering of the Cross. If we desire Easter’s glory, we must be willing to walk the Lenten path of renewal.

Lent is our season of spiritual renovation. With God as our master builder, the Holy Spirit as our guide, and Jesus as our blueprint, we are being reshaped into His likeness.

In the first reading, God makes a covenant with Abram. This divine promise foreshadowed a greater covenant. Just as Abram was willing to sacrifice Isaac, God would one day offer His only Son for the salvation of the world. Lent is our journey of faith, where we trust that God’s promises are greater than our fears.

Paul reminds us that our true citizenship is in Heaven. Too often, we define ourselves by earthly things—our nationality, career, or possessions. Paul challenges us to live as people who belong to Heaven, not as those consumed by worldly distractions.

In the Gospel, Peter, James, and John see Jesus transfigured—His face shining, His clothes dazzling in divine radiance. This moment strengthened their faith before the trials ahead. Then, amid the glorious light, they hear the voice of the Father: **“This is My Son, My Chosen One. Listen to Him.”**

That command still echoes today. When life is confusing, when faith is tested, when the world offers its own versions of success—listen to Him. The Transfiguration reminds us that the Cross is never the final word. Glory awaits.

We don’t have to look back thousands of years to witness a great miracle. We experience something greater at every Holy Mass. The bread and wine are transubstantiated into the Body and Blood of Christ. What appears as simple food is the glorified Jesus.

The Eucharist strengthens us. Each time we receive it, we are renewed, fortified against temptation, and given grace to grow in holiness.

The challenge is before us: Will we allow the Eucharist to transform us? Will we let this heavenly food make us more like Christ? The Transfiguration was a call to deeper faith. And the Holy Mass, where we witness an even greater mystery, is our invitation to be transfigured today and every day.



The Father's command still rings in our ears: **Listen to Him.**

Sermon: Lent 3C

“I Shall Cultivate the Ground Around It.”

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9



Cultivating Our Hearts This Lent

We are now three weeks into Lent—how is your journey progressing? Are you pressing forward with purpose, embracing the season as an opportunity for spiritual renewal? Or has it turned into a test of endurance, where simply making it to Easter feels like an achievement? Perhaps your Lenten commitments are thriving, your prayers are deeper, your fasting is meaningful, and your acts of charity are abundant. Or maybe you find yourself wondering, *wait... we're still doing this?*

The reality is, Lent is long. The ashes from Ash Wednesday have long since faded, and for some, so has the initial enthusiasm. The commitment to give up sweets may have encountered a “small” exception. The extra time for prayer? Well, God surely understands how busy we are, right?

Yet today's readings remind us of a powerful truth—God is patient, merciful, and always ready to give us another chance. He calls us to repentance, not to shame us, but to transform us. Like a loving Father, He corrects us not to condemn, but to help us grow.

So, here is the real question: Are we bearing fruit? Have we allowed God to change us, or are we merely going through the motions?

The good news is—it is not too late! We can refocus, recommit, and allow God to cultivate our hearts so that by Easter, we are not just awake but fully alive in Him.

The first reading takes us to one of the most awe-inspiring moments in salvation history—God speaking to Moses from the burning bush. This is not an ordinary encounter; it is a divine turning point where God reveals His name, His plan, and His unwavering love for His people.

The Israelites had suffered under brutal oppression, crying out for deliverance. And how does God respond? He *hears*. He *sees*. He *knows*. In His boundless mercy, He calls an unsuspecting shepherd—Moses—to lead His people to freedom.

Through this miraculous moment, God teaches us three unshakable truths:

1. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—forever faithful to His covenant.
2. He never abandons His people—even in suffering, He is at work.
3. He is *I AM WHO AM*—eternal, unchanging, ever-present.

This is not just Israel's story—it is ours. Sin, fear, and false idols enslave us. But Lent is our burning bush moment, our call to freedom. Like Moses, we may feel unworthy, but God does not demand perfection—only faith. The question is: Will we follow?

In the second reading, St. Paul does not offer gentle suggestions—he sounds a warning, a rallying cry against the greatest danger to our souls: turning away from God. His words thunder through time, cautioning us against idolatry, that insidious force that lures hearts from Christ and binds them to lesser gods.

Paul does not soften his message. He reminds us of that Israel's ancestors, despite witnessing God's power, still fell into sin. Their downfall was not ignorance, but a failure to remain steadfast in faith. Their story is not a distant history, it is a mirror reflecting our own spiritual battles.

And what is idolatry today? It is not just bowing before statues; it is elevating anything above God—wealth, status, pleasure, even our own pride. It is the slow, subtle shift from faithfulness to faithlessness. Paul's warning calls us to action: Cast out false gods. Reclaim devotion to the Almighty. Faithfulness is not passive—it is a battle against anything that draws us away from God. The question is: Will we rise and fight?

The fig tree stood in the garden, its bare branches, its bark weathered by the seasons. For years, it had been given time to bear fruit, yet still, it remained

lifeless. The master of the vineyard, seeing no change, said, “Cut it down. It is wasting the soil.”

But the gardener, full of patience and hope, pleaded, “Give it one more year. Let me tend to it, let me care for it, and if it still bears no fruit, then you may cut it down.”

The master sighed, then relented. One more chance.

We are that fig tree—standing in the soil of opportunity, given time, given grace, yet often failing to produce the fruit we were meant to bear. And yet, like the gardener, God does not give up on us.

History is filled with second chances. Henry Ford went bankrupt five times. Beethoven was told he had no musical talent. Walt Disney was fired for lacking imagination. Albert Einstein was labeled as “mentally slow.” Had they stopped at failure, the world would not know their names. But they persevered, and in time, their labor bore fruit.

Lent is our second chance. It is our season to be the fig tree, given another year, another opportunity to turn barrenness into abundance. Christ, the Divine Gardener, stands before us, pleading on our behalf, saying, “Give them more time. Let me work with them. They are not done yet.”

Yet, time is not infinite. This season of grace is fleeting. We must allow the Divine Gardener to cultivate our hearts, to prune what is lifeless, to nourish what is weak. We must not let this time pass by.

For the greatest tragedy is not failing the first time, or the second, or even the hundredth. The true tragedy is refusing the chance to begin again.

And so, we ask ourselves: When the Gardener comes next year, will He find fruit? Let us decide today, right now, to cultivate the ground around our hearts, to allow Him to transform us, and to bear fruit that will last. ✝

LENT 4C: Laetare Sunday

“Your Brother Has Returned.”

Joshua 5:9, 10-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The March: All Saints



A Joyful Call to Reconciliation

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are invited into a deeper spiritual reflection—a return to the heart of our faith. This sacred season urges us to examine not only our relationship with God but also our connections with one another. The Fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally known as *Laetare Sunday*, offers a glimpse of Easter’s promise during Lent’s solemnity. It is a moment of joy—not fleeting or superficial—but rooted in reconciliation, restoration, and a return to our identity as beloved children of God.

To understand this more fully, we revisit the edge of the Promised Land, where the Book of Joshua begins. There, a new generation of Israelites—those who had not witnessed the miracles of the Red Sea or Mount Sinai—stood poised to enter the land of promise. In Deuteronomy, Moses addressed them with a solemn warning: “*Remember, and do not forget.*” His concern was clear. When manna gave way to harvested grain, and water flowed from wells rather than rocks, the people might forget the true source of their blessings.

That warning echoes in Joshua 5, where the manna ceases, and the people begin to eat the fruit of the land. It is a transition from wilderness to abundance—but the spiritual danger remains. A mysterious figure, the commander of the Lord’s army—appears to Joshua. When asked, “Are you for us or our enemies?” the answer is striking: “*Neither. I am the commander of the army of the Lord.*” This reminds us that God is not to be claimed for our side; rather, we are called to align ourselves with Him.

In this same spirit, Saint Paul speaks directly to us in the Second Letter to the Corinthians. Five times he uses the word *reconcile*—because reconciliation is the heart of the Gospel. In Christ, God reconciled the world to Himself and now entrusts us with the ministry of reconciliation. We are called to be ambassadors of grace, messengers of peace, and builders of bridges between estranged hearts.

This message is especially needed today. There are many—family members, friends, and former parishioners who, for various reasons, have drifted away. Time, misunderstanding, or hurt may have created a distance that feels insurmountable. Yet God calls us to act—not with judgment, but with loving invitation. We are not only gatherers of the faithful, but bearers of hope to those who long to return.

Today's Gospel, the parable of the Prodigal Son, encapsulates this beautifully. The Father runs to the wayward son while he is still far off—embracing, rejoicing, restoring. We, too, are called to run—not to reproach, but to welcome. And we must guard our hearts from the bitterness of the elder brother, whose pride kept him from the joy of reconciliation.

Dear friends, Lent is not just a season of self-denial—it is a holy opportunity to become agents of God's mercy. Let us open our hearts, our homes, and our parish with a joy that says, *"Your brother has returned."* And may heaven rejoice with

us. ✝

Sermon: Lent 5C, Passion Sunday

"Neither Do I Condemn You: Go, and Sin No More."

Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11

A Holy Reset: Grace, Mercy, and the Invitation to Begin Again



Have you ever had to reset your phone or computer because it became slow, unresponsive, or cluttered? A simple reset doesn't erase everything, it just clears away what's blocking the system from functioning properly. In many ways, today's Scripture readings offer us a similar spiritual reset. They do not condemn us, nor do they discard us. Rather, they clear the way for grace to do its work.

God does not delete our stories; He redeems them. Through His Word, He reminds us that no matter how disordered our lives become, He steps in to renew, restore, and guide us forward. And here is the remarkable truth: we are not only invited to receive this mercy—we are called to embody it and extend it to others.

Let us reflect on three key messages drawn from today's liturgy:

1. **God Loves a Comeback Story** – Regardless of how far we may have wandered, God's desire is always for our return, not our punishment. He welcomes the repentant with open arms and calls us to do the same for others.

Palm Sunday Reflection: Embracing the Passion of Christ

Today, as we wave palms and sing “Hosanna,” we enter the most sacred week of our Christian journey—the path of our Lord’s Passion. Palm Sunday holds within it a paradox: the joyful procession that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem swiftly turns into the solemn road to Calvary. The same voices that shouted, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” would soon cry, “Crucify Him.”



In this, we are reminded of the fragility of human loyalty, the ease with which we falter, and the depth of Christ’s love that never wavers. The Passion of Christ is not just a story of ancient suffering; it is a living invitation for each of us to walk with Jesus in His agony, not only as observers but as participants.

We see Him betrayed by a friend, abandoned by His followers, falsely accused, beaten, mocked, and nailed to a cross. And through it all, He remains silent in strength, humble in suffering, and obedient to the will of the Father. Why? For love. For us.

The Passion teaches us that suffering is not meaningless when united with Christ. Our own crosses—be they illness, loneliness, injustice, or personal failures—take on a new dignity when we offer them in union with His sacrifice. In the pierced hands of Christ, our pain is not wasted; it becomes redemptive.

Palm Sunday invites us to consider: How do we respond to the Passion of Christ? Do we stay awake with Him in Gethsemane, or do we, too, fall asleep? Do we stand at the foot of the Cross like Mary and John, or do we distance ourselves out of fear or indifference?

As we begin Holy Week, let us not rush ahead to Easter morning without first walking the path to the Cross. Let us enter the mystery of God’s love revealed in the Passion—a love that forgives even as it is rejected, a love that embraces suffering to save the world.

May our hearts be moved, not only by sorrow, but by the courage to follow Christ more closely. Let us pick up our own crosses and walk with Him, confident that beyond the pain of Good Friday lies the joy of Resurrection.

The Towel, the Table, and the Test: A Holy Thursday Reflection

Holy Thursday is one of the most intimate and powerful moments in the Church's liturgical year. It is the night we remember the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Sacred Priesthood. Yet, woven into the sacred rituals of the Upper Room is a moment so ordinary it's easy to overlook: the washing of feet.



In a modest home—not too different from ours—an elderly grandmother had a tradition. Every Holy Thursday, she prepared a simple meal of soup, bread, and wine for her family. After dinner, she would kneel and quietly wash the feet of her children and grandchildren. She said nothing, just offered warm water, towels, and tender love.

One year, her youngest grandson, puzzled, finally asked, “Grandma, why do you do that?”

She smiled and answered, “Because Jesus did it first. He washed feet before He went to the Cross. This is what love does. It bends down.”

In John's Gospel (13:1–15), we hear how Jesus, knowing that His hour had come, took off His outer garments, wrapped a towel around His waist, and began to wash the feet of His disciples. It was a task reserved for servants, yet the Master lowered Himself. He washed the feet of Peter, who would deny Him. He even washed the feet of Judas, who would betray Him.

Then Jesus said, *“Do you understand what I have done for you? If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash one another's.”*

On that night, there were two symbols in the room: the table and the towel. The table reminds us of the gift of the Eucharist—Jesus giving us His Body and Blood. The towel reminds us of our mission—to serve one another in humility and love.

Too often, we embrace the table but avoid the towel. We welcome Christ's grace, but resist the call to bend down, to forgive, to show mercy.

But Jesus linked the two forever: *“Take and eat... and serve and love.”*

That grandson is now a grown man. And every Holy Thursday, he makes soup, breaks bread, pours wine, and kneels before his children. When they ask him why, he smiles and says, *“Because Jesus did it first. This is what love does. It bends down.”*

As we commemorate Holy Thursday, let us remember we are not only invited to the Lord's table, but we are also handed the towel. The question is, whose feet are we willing to wash?

Let us carry both table and towel into our lives. This is the way of Christ. This is the test of love.

Sermon: Easter C

“They Have Taken the Lord From the Tomb.”



Today we do more than mark a date on the calendar—we celebrate the single greatest truth the world has ever known: **Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!** The Church across the globe resounds with triumphant hymns, joyful alleluias, and vibrant signs of life. Easter Sunday is not merely a day of remembrance, it is a proclamation of victory. This is the *feast of feasts*, the day of unparalleled joy, because the Resurrection of Jesus Christ declares with certainty that He is the Son of God, and that death has been conquered once and for all.

Yet the power of this day extends far beyond an event in history. The Resurrection is not just about *what happened*, it is about *what is happening now*. Christ’s rising is not a solitary triumph; it is our victory too. Jesus does not only rise—He raises us with Him. From fear to faith, despair to hope, sin to salvation, the power of Easter transforms everything.

Even the word “Easter” is beautifully symbolic. It stems from a term meaning “feast of fresh flowers,” an image that reflects the spirit of this holy day. Like spring bursting through the cold and barren soil of winter, the Resurrection breaks into the world with color, life, and promise.

However, the Resurrection story does not begin with joy. In the Gospel we read today, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb early in the morning and is overwhelmed by grief and confusion. The stone has been rolled away. The body of her Lord is missing. She cries out in anguish, *“They have taken the Lord from the tomb!”*

To Mary, it seemed a moment of loss. But in truth, it was the moment when everything began. What she saw as defeat was, in fact, the first glimpse of God’s great victory. The tomb was not robbed, *it was emptied by love*. Death had not prevailed—it had been defeated.

This message resonates deeply with the experiences of many of our loved ones. I often recall my own father on Easter Sunday—a Navy veteran and coal miner. He knew the darkness, both literally and figuratively. He once told me, *“You learn to appreciate the light when you’ve worked so long in the dark.”* And that’s what the Resurrection teaches us: we rise from the depths, from suffering, and from silence into the blinding glory of the light of Christ.

Like miners emerging from below, Christ comes forth from the grave, but not alone. He brings with Him all of us. He lifts us from our tombs of sorrow, shame, and sin, and calls us to walk with Him in newness of life.

And if you wonder, *Did Jesus really rise?* three powerful signs answer that question:

1. **The Empty Tomb:** No Roman guard could prevent it. No one ever produced a body—because there was none to find. He is not there. He is risen.

2. **The Testimony of Women:** In a time when women's voices were not trusted, it is the women who are first to see the Risen Lord. No myth would begin that way—unless it were true.
3. **The Changed Lives of the Disciples:** Once fearful and hiding, these men emerged as fearless proclaimers of the Gospel, willing to lay down their lives for the truth they had seen and touched.

Now, two thousand years later, we continue to carry that truth. We are Easter people. The Resurrection is not a moment trapped in time, but a reality we live every day. The Risen Christ is not confined to history—He is present here and now, in our midst, calling us to rise with Him into new life.

So, let us live as if the Resurrection matters—because it does. Let us be courageous in love, faithful in witness, and bold in hope. Let our lives declare to a weary world what Mary Magdalene first announced with trembling awe:

“They have taken the Lord from the tomb...”
No. He is Risen! Alleluia



Sermon: Easter 2C *“My Lord and My God!”*

We continue to bask in the radiant glow of Easter morning, with *Alleluias* still echoing in our hearts. The tomb is empty, the grave has been conquered, and Christ is truly Risen! But for one disciple—Thomas—it wasn't so easy. He missed that first joyful encounter with the Risen Jesus, and his honest doubt led him to declare, “Unless I see... I will not believe.” But Thomas was no stubborn cynic—he was a seeker. And in his search, he opened the door to one of the most profound declarations in all of Scripture: *“My Lord and my God!”*



This journey from doubt to faith is at the heart of Easter. Jesus doesn't shame Thomas—He returns for him. He enters through locked doors, into anxious hearts, and offers peace. That same Jesus still walks into our lives—bringing hope, healing, and the invitation to believe.

The readings this Sunday give us a powerful vision of what faith in the Risen Christ looks like. In the Book of Acts, the apostles, filled with Resurrection joy, heal the sick and preach boldly. In Revelation, the exiled John encounters Christ in radiant glory, and hears those comforting words: *“Do not be afraid.”* And in the Gospel, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on His disciples and sends them to be messengers of mercy.

Faith takes many forms. Mary hears His voice. The beloved disciple believes at the tomb. Thomas believes when he sees. And we? We believe by hearing, trusting, by living as Easter people in a Good Friday world.

To help us live this call, I invite you to remember the *ABC of Easter Faith*:

A – Aye! Say yes to God. Not a half-hearted nod, but a joyful, full-throated yes. Say yes in your prayers, in your kindness, in your willingness to serve. (And yes—our Canadian seminarian would be proud of the “Aye!”)

B – Be merciful. Mercy is the heartbeat of the Gospel. Be forgiving generously. Be loving deeply. Let grace flow from you the way it flows from Christ to you.

C – See the miracles of faith. Open your eyes to the grace around you. A child’s laughter. A healed relationship. Peace in the middle of chaos. These are miracles. Look for them. Celebrate them.

So, what now? Go and live it. Say **A!** to God. **B** a person of mercy. And **C** with new eyes the Risen Christ all around you. Let the words of Thomas become your words, your prayer, your proclamation, your way of life:

My Lord and my God!



THE MARCH WITH ALL SAINTS"

MAY 2025



ALL SAINTS PARISH

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A Welcoming and Accessible Church for All

Our church is designed to be fully accessible and welcoming to all, ensuring a comfortable and inclusive environment for seniors and individuals with mobility challenges. With handicap-accessible entrances, and facilities, we prioritize ease of access so that everyone can fully participate in worship, fellowship, and community activities.

Parish Chairman	Jeff Kotelnicki	
Altar Society President	Sharon Stachurski	
YMS of R, President	Dwight Berend	
Friends of Sunday School	Gloria Bawol	
Hall Rental	Dwight Berend	
Clergy	Rev. Dr. Jim Ploskonka	216.650.5596 (Cell)

Private, memorial, and special occasion Masses (for birthdays, anniversaries, or other intentions) are offered. To schedule a Sunday intention, please contact Father Jim.

OUR HISTORY SERVING THE GREATER DETROIT AREA

1920 - All Saints Parish was organized by Rev. John Mazur.

1929 - All Saints was accepted into the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.) and the state charter was obtained on June 10, 1929.

1937 - Renovation of old church and buildings and blessed.

1942 - Land on Halleck St. was acquired.

1947 - New brick rectory was erected.

1955 - Work on a new brick church was started and completed in 1956.

1959 - 30th anniversary of the parish celebrated, and mortgage burned.

1962 Parish property of 2 adjacent homes on Mitchell St. were purchased by the Maria Konopnicka Society.

1972 - A cemetery section was obtained at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Van Dyke in

Detroit for burial of parishioners including those from Holy Cross Parish.

1989 - Property at 17 Mile Rd. in Sterling Heights purchased to build a new church, hall, and rectory.

1990 - Properties at Mitchell & Halleck were sold and the land in Sterling Heights was blessed and ground broken to build the new facilities.

1991 - Design was chosen and construction began in June.

1992 - Construction completed and church was blessed and dedicated on September 12.

BLESSED BY GOD FOR 95 YEARS

On Sunday, June 30, 2019, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of our parish with a mass celebrated by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky.

We look forward to continuing the work of Jesus Christ in spreading His love and mercy to others through "***Truth Work, and Struggle***" under the guidance of Rev. Dr. Jim Ploskonka.

