

Dear Parishioners and Friends in Christ,

**Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

As we enter the height of summer, the life of our parish and Church continues to flourish with purpose and joy. July and August offer us not only the blessings of warmer days and well-deserved rest, but also a rich season of spiritual nourishment, community fellowship, and patriotic reflection.

We give thanks for the opportunity to gather for our Diocesan Youth Gathering—an occasion where our young people will grow in faith, form Christ-centered friendships, and be strengthened as the future leaders of our Church. We will also come together as a nation on Independence Day, giving praise to God for the gift of freedom and praying earnestly for peace and justice in our land. As Scripture reminds us, *“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants to one another”* (Galatians 5:13).

In addition, the National United Choirs Convention and Workshop will bless us with prayerful affection,

***Father Jim***

**Rev. Dr. Jim Ploskonka**

through the ministry of sacred music, lifting hearts and voices in praise, renewing the spirit of song that is so dear to our PNCC



tradition. We also mark several significant solemnities and feast days during these months, each inviting us into deeper reflection and thanksgiving. In the rhythm of the Church’s calendar, we are reminded that even in the leisure of summer, the Lord is always near.

As we enjoy the longer days and slower pace, I encourage each of you to stay rooted in prayer, steadfast in worship, and generous in heart. Whether you find rest with family, serve within the parish, or travel for summer adventures, may you be refreshed in both body and spirit. *“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles”* (Isaiah 40:31).

Let us rejoice in this season together—joyfully and faithfully. May the weeks ahead draw us ever closer to one another and to Christ, who is the source of every good gift.

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## Mother's Day Celebration at All Saints



Mother's Day at All Saints Parish was a joyful and heartfelt occasion, filled with smiles, stories, and warm fellowship. It was a time to honor and celebrate the incredible women of our parish—mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all those who nurture others with grace and love.

Throughout the morning, the church was alive with the beauty of spring and the radiant spirit of those we recognized. The women of All Saints bring strength, kindness, and generosity to our community. Their devotion to family, faith, and service continues to be an inspiration to all.

A special thank you to the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection (YMS of R) for providing beautiful flowers, a delicious breakfast, and for making the women of our parish feel truly appreciated and loved.

In this month of May, dedicated to the Blessed Mother, we give thanks for these women whose lives reflect Mary's compassion and faith.

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## Western Diocese Clergy Circle Retreat 2025

*Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center – Donaldson, Indiana*



This year's Clergy Retreat was graced by the presence of His Grace, the Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, who served as Retreat Master. His profound and inspiring presentation focused on the theme of the Word of God. Drawing from the historic General Synods

of 1906, 1909, and 1914, he emphasized the Word as a bearer of sacramental grace and a central duty of priestly ministry.

Referencing PNCC Catechism Questions 322 and 323, the Prime Bishop also reflected on the living proclamation of Christ (Kerygma), sacramental adjacency, and the centrality of the

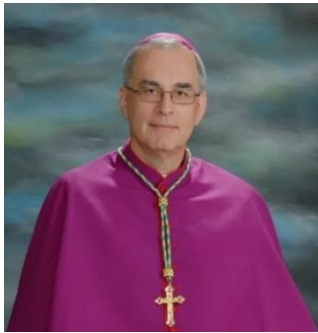




homily. His engaging teaching led to thoughtful dialogue among the clergy. In appreciation, Father Senior John Kowalczyk and Father Rowinski presented a gift to the Prime Bishop on behalf of all present.

We thank His Grace for his leadership and for nourishing our vocations with wisdom and pastoral encouragement.

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### **A Dinner Honoring the Sons of the Parish**

*Celebrating Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and Father Joe Lewandowski*

All Saints Parish will be hosting a special dinner on Tuesday, September 27, 2025 preceded by a Solemn High Mass, in honor the sons of the parish who have gone on to serve Christ at His holy altar. Among those being recognized is The Right Reverend Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, who was consecrated to the episcopacy on the Feast of St. Luke the Apostle and Evangelist, Tuesday, October 18, 2011.

Bishop Paul was elected to the Office of Bishop during the Church's 26th General Synod. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, he grew up in the spiritual life of All Saints Parish. He completed his studies at Wayne State University and Savonarola Theological Seminary and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 1979. He has since served in numerous pastoral, administrative, and national leadership roles—most recently as Pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, New Hampshire, and as Bishop Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese.

Father Joseph S. Lewandowski was ordained in March 1976 and served in the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese with dedication until his retirement.

Please mark your calendars and join us for this special evening of gratitude, prayer, and celebration for Bishop Paul and Father Joe.

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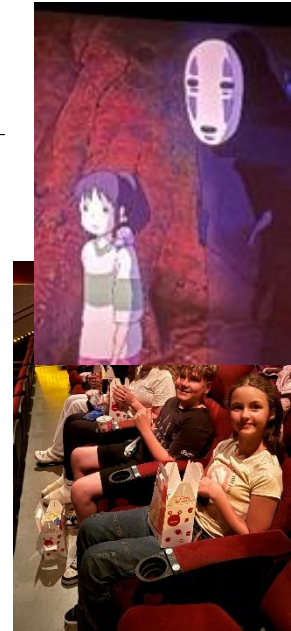


## FOSS Summer Movie Night a Hit with Youth!

What better way to celebrate the end of the school year and our School of Christian Living classes than a fun night out at the movies? Thanks to the Friends of Sunday School (FOSS), our youth enjoyed a fantastic evening filled with laughter, popcorn, pop, and great company. The featured film—*Elio*—was a Summer 2025 animated smash hit, and tickets were in high demand!

It was a wonderful way to kick off the summer, allowing our young people to connect, relax, and simply enjoy each other's company. The energy and excitement of the group were contagious, and everyone left the theater with smiles and full hearts.

A special thank you goes out to our FOSS team for organizing this memorable event. And for those who missed it—don't worry! Rumor has it that more Friday night youth events are already in the works for the remainder of the year. Stay tuned and keep those calendars open. It's going to be a great year for our youth ministry!



## Youth Lead the Way to Veterans' Home and Heart

All Saints Parish is proud to announce that our youth group has taken the lead in coordinating both the Diocesan and National Youth Projects for 2025 and 2026. With the support of our parish family, the youth—under the leadership of their president, Michael—have already created over 130 handmade placemats to adorn the dining rooms at the Chesterfield Veterans Home. This project offers a heartfelt way to honor and express gratitude to those who have served our country with courage and sacrifice.



**YOUTH NIGHT**  
**MAKE PLACEMATS FOR VETERANS**  
Friday, May 16, 2025 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Please bring colored pencils or crayons. Food and Refreshments will be served.  
The placemats will be donated to the  
Michigan Veteran Homes at Chesterfield Township

Where: All Saints Parish  
5555 Seventeen Mile Rd, Sterling Heights, MI 48310  
RSVP by: Sign-Up sheet in Parish Hall OR sending email to  
[AllSaintsSterlingHeightsFOSS@gmail.com](mailto:AllSaintsSterlingHeightsFOSS@gmail.com)  
For More Details Visit our Website at [allsaintspncc.org](http://allsaintspncc.org)

At the upcoming 2025 Youth Gathering this July, participants will continue this meaningful work by designing additional placemats for distribution to other veterans' homes. It is a creative and compassionate way for our young people to make a difference.

The Chesterfield Veterans Home provides private accommodations for 128 members across four residential neighborhoods, alongside a 33,000-square-foot community center offering therapy, worship, and recreation, all within a connected, compassionate, and dignified environment.





A special youth gathering was called on June 25<sup>th</sup> to make 36 centerpieces for the Veterans 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at Chesterfield. Gloria said, “they (our youth) are amazing!” The table decorations were dropped off on June 28<sup>th</sup> and the deliverers were able to volunteer with an hour of bingo for our veteran residents!



## **Friends of Sunday School (FOSS) News** *by Gloria Bawol*

All Saints Sunday School concluded its program on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Congratulations to Davida D. (Award for Honor roll, having a 3.9 GPA), Dima D. (Outstanding member award in Key Club for having 50+ volunteer hours this year and highest youth bowling score at YMS of R Bowling Tournament), Jacob K. (Altar server, 2<sup>nd</sup> division Social Studies Olympiad and member of National Elementary Honor Society), Nardin K. (Altar server, 1<sup>st</sup> division Social Studies Olympiad, taking AP course work), Yuliia K. (Made her First Penance and First Holy Communion), Michael P. (Altar Server, Elected to Youth Commission of the National and Western Dioceses, continuing preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation), Hank R. (All A's report card, improved personal best time on swim team) and Jack R. (All A's and B's report card, improved personal best time on swim team.) Our youth continued learning about the Gospel that all parishioners hear during Mass. Each week the lesson adapted the Gospel toward the lives and experiences of children, reinforced by a video. Thank you, Mary C., for providing these videos each week. It gave our youth the opportunity to understand the Gospel message and participate at their own level. Weekly the youth read aloud Scripture readings from their Bibles. They acknowledge something they are thankful for and one intention each week.

A big thank you goes to Father Jim this year. He oversaw the religious aspects of our program and did Sacramental preparation. Sunday School could not happen without the volunteering of the teachers. Special thanks to: Linda A., Gloria B., Mary C., Olivia K. and our first-year teachers Dima D. and Father Jim. A few other items of note: Olivia coordinated the Operation Christmas Child project and doubled the number of boxes collected. Special congratulations to Olivia on being in the top 11 of her graduation class from Almont High School and being accepted to go to Oakland University into the Nursing Program.

Andrea P. and Mary C. run the technology during Mass, and they are finding and providing new music to play during the service. Congratulations on a successful Halloween party and Easter Egg hunt thanks to our teachers. This year, because of a student survey, we began monthly youth gatherings. We watched movies, played games, made rosary's, ice skated, helped with pierogi making, made placemats and centerpieces for veterans. We concluded with a movie night (Elio) on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

On the last day every child received a certificate of completion, and we all had cake and ice cream to celebrate Olivia's graduation. The members of FOSS would like to thank all the



members of All Saints Church that were able to give a donation to our group in the Church envelope during the month of June. We greatly appreciate your financial support for the youth of our parish. I personally want to acknowledge the officers of FOSS: Gloria B. – President, Andrea P. – Vice Chair, Jill C. – Treasurer and Jennifer K. – Secretary. It takes a village to accomplish what we do in Sunday School and with FOSS. Thank you all for being a part of our village.

This summer the PNCC is offering Convos and Camps for the kids. FOSS helps families with tuition.

- Youth Gathering 2025 is July 21-25 at Morgantown, IN. The theme is “God’s Kingdom Builders”.
- Holy Cross Summer Camp is August 3-7 at Waterloo Recreation Area. No Charge for the week.
- Lots of fun and learning at these camps.

The next FOSS meeting will be Sunday, August 19, 2025. You do not have to have children in the Sunday School program to participate in our group. We have our meetings on Zoom in the evening.

The first day of Sunday School for the 2025/26 school year will be September 7, 2025. There is no charge for children to attend Sunday School. Please encourage your children to attend. If you know any families that are looking to join a Sunday School program, please share what a gem we have at All Saints Church in Sterling Heights. We accommodate children from age 3-17 in our program.

*“So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, ‘Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat’”.*  
Genesis 1:27-29.

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<https://allsaintspncc.org/>



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# 8th Annual National YMSofR Bishop Bilinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat Bp. Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center – Waymart, PA June 18–21, 2025

*“For Us Men, and for Our Salvation”: Men of the Creed, Living the Truth We Profess*

*Submitted by Father Jim Ploskonka*

The lush hills of Waymart, Pennsylvania once again welcomed men of faith from across the Polish National Catholic Church for the 8th Annual National

YMS of R Bishop Bilinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat, held June 18–21, 2025. This year’s theme, *“For us men, and for our salvation”*—invited participants to live out the creed they profess, focusing each day on a Person of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



The setting of the Bp. Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center, known affectionately as Spojnia Farm, offered an ideal balance of peace, fraternity, and spiritual nourishment. With flags raised high, prayers lifted sincerely, and laughter shared freely, this retreat provided a sacred space for renewal of mind, body, and spirit.



The retreat began on Wednesday afternoon with arrivals and greetings among old friends and new faces. That evening, the retreat was formally opened with the *Mass of the Holy Trinity*, drawing attention to the central mystery of our faith. A hearty dinner followed, setting the tone for fellowship. The evening session and icebreakers helped ease participants into the rhythm of the retreat, culminating with the *Litany of the Holy Trinity* and a joyful bonfire under the stars.



Thursday, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, centered around our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The day commenced with breakfast and a reverent *Corpus Christi Mass* with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Through diocesan breakout sessions and a unified *Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament*, men reflected deeply on

the Real Presence of Christ. Afternoon tournaments of darts and cornhole added a lighthearted touch, before the group journeyed to St. Adalbert’s PNCC in Dickson City for a beautiful evening Corpus Christi service. There, retreatants were warmly welcomed and treated to fellowship and refreshments that extended late into the evening.







Friday's focus on the Holy Spirit included quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament, *Holy Mass of the Holy Spirit*, and spiritual discussions meant to stir the heart. After lunch and the Angelus, attendees enjoyed well-deserved free time—with options including poolside relaxation, a historic trip to Honesdale, and even a 9-hole golf outing (or bowling, depending on the weather).

That evening's BBQ on the patio was followed by another engaging session and a *Litany of the Holy Spirit*, closing the day with both reflection and renewal.

Saturday morning's focus turned toward the First Person of the Trinity: God the Father. Morning prayer and flag-raising led into a powerful session on the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds. A concluding reflection — "*Something to Bring Home*" — challenged men to examine their spiritual growth and commitment.

The final *Holy Mass of a Spiritual Retreat* gathered all reflections, prayers, and blessings into one sacred offering. The liturgy was the mountaintop experience of a four-day spiritual climb, a sending forth to live the Creed, not only in word but in deed.

As the retreat concluded, participants were invited to reflect on five key areas of spiritual impact:

1. **Did you connect with yourself?**

By retreating from daily demands, each man had the opportunity to rediscover the voice of God within his own heart.

2. **Did you find peace?**

Whether around a campfire, before the Blessed Sacrament, or in quiet conversation, many found moments of unexpected grace.

3. **Did you build brotherhood?**

New friendships blossomed, and old ones deepened—sometimes sparked by a joke, a shared prayer, or even a simple can of soda.

4. **Did you experience joy?**

From light-hearted games to moments of quiet laughter, the retreat proved that joy and holiness walk hand in hand.

5. **Are you a better-equipped Catholic?**

Through engaging sessions, rich liturgy, and insightful side conversations, men left with more than just knowledge—they departed with conviction.

As one participant shared, "This might have been the most time I've ever spent in front of the Eucharist—and I'll never forget it." For another, it was "the first-time attending Mass four days in a row." For many, it was simply the rediscovery of what it means to be a man of faith, a man of the Creed.

Whether pondering the mysteries of the Trinity, walking through the streets of Honesdale, or sitting quietly with hearing aids tucked away, the men who gathered at Spojnia Farm in June



2025 did more than attend a retreat—they stepped into a sacred rhythm of prayer, purpose, and community.

As they return to parishes, families, and daily routines, may the words of the Creed echo louder in all our lives. And may this retreat serve as both anchor and inspiration until we gather again next year.

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## **All Saints Represented at 77th YMS of R Bowling Tournament**

The 77th Annual YMS of R Bowling Tournament was held this year in Michigan, and All Saints Parish was proudly represented by our dedicated team of bowlers: Davida, Dema, Michael, and Bill. Their camaraderie, sportsmanship, and faith-filled fellowship were a wonderful reflection of our parish spirit.



Special congratulations goes to Dema, who led all youth participants with an impressive high score of 191, an outstanding achievement that brought joy and pride to everyone cheering them on.



Following several days of friendly competition and fraternity, the tournament concluded with a celebratory banquet hosted by Holy Cross Parish. It was a time of reflection, gratitude, and recognition for all participants who made the event such a memorable success.



The YMS of R Bowling Tournament has a rich legacy, beginning in 1947, when the first national tournament was held to encourage fellowship among the members of the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection. Now, 77 years later, this beloved tradition continues to bring together members from across the Polish National Catholic Church in joy, unity, and brotherhood.

We give thanks for our bowlers and all who support this long-standing tradition. Well done, Team All Saints!

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

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## Exploring Our Spiritual and Cultural Heritage: Pilgrimage to Poland

Have you ever dreamed of walking the streets of Kraków, praying before the Black Madonna in Czestochowa, or tracing the footsteps of Prime Bishop Hodur or Saint John Paul II? Father Jim is in the early stages of planning a Polish National Catholic Church Pilgrimage to Poland, and we would like to know—would you be interested in joining us?

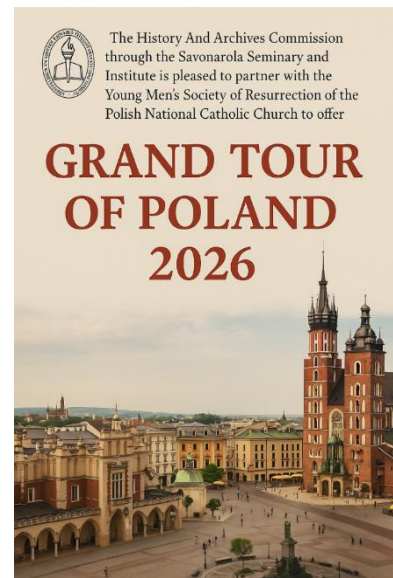
This sacred journey is envisioned as a rich blend of spiritual reflection, historical discovery, and cultural immersion. Below is a *sample itinerary* from a recent pilgrimage to give you a sense of what such a trip could include:

### Sample Pilgrimage to Poland

**Dates:** September 9–19, 2024 (10 days)

**Estimated All-Inclusive Cost (from Detroit):** \$3,970 per person

**Single Room Supplement:** \$660



### Highlights May Include:

- Walking tour of Gdańsk:
  - St. Mary's Basilica
  - Long Market & Main Town Hall
- Visit Oliwa Cathedral with organ concert
- Stroll the Baltic coast pier in Sopot
- Visit the Lenin Shipyard, birthplace of *Solidarity*
- Free time to shop for amber jewelry and crafts
- Tour Malbork Castle, Europe's largest Gothic fortress
- Continue to Toruń, a UNESCO site
- Evening walk through Old Town, home of Nicolaus Copernicus
- Toruń's: Leaning Tower, Town Hall and Copernicus Baptismal Site
- Warsaw's Explore rebuilt Old Town and Royal Castle, St. John's Cathedral, Constitution Square, Walk the Royal Route to Łazienki Park
- Visit to Jasna Góra Monastery in Czestochowa
- Visit to Zarki, birthplace of the Organizer of the PNCC, Bishop Hodur
- Continue to Wadowice, hometown of St. John Paul II
- Tour Zakopane: unique wooden architecture and folklore
- Ride funicular to Gubałówka Mountain for views of the Tatras
- Visit open-air market for highlander crafts
- Afternoon raft ride on Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park
- Optional highlander dinner with music and local specialties
- Explore the Wieliczka Salt Mine—underground chapels and sculptures
- Visit the Divine Mercy Shrine in Łagiewniki, home of St. Faustina
- Evening arrival and check-in at a Kraków Old Town hotel
- Walk to the Market Square and enjoy Kraków at night
- Tour Kraków's medieval treasures:
  - Market Square
  - St. Mary's Basilica
  - Wawel Castle and Cathedral (tombs of kings)
- Visit to Auschwitz Concentration Camp

The pilgrimage would be led by Father Jim and include round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, most meals, local guides, entrance fees, and transportation within Poland. This tour is designed not merely as a sightseeing experience, but as a spiritual journey—strengthening



our faith, deepening our identity as Polish National Catholics, and connecting us to the land from which our Church's heritage was born.

**Space on such pilgrimages is often limited**, and group pricing depends on early commitment. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to Father Jim. No commitment is needed yet—we are simply gauging interest to determine feasibility.

Let us rediscover the treasures of our faith and culture together in the heart of Poland!

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## Holy Cross Annual Youth & Children's Camp!

We are excited to announce that the Holy Cross Annual Youth and Children's Camp will take place this summer from Sunday, August 3 to Thursday, August 7, 2025, concluding at 1:00 p.m.

This year's camp will be held at the beautiful Waterloo State Recreation Area, offering an ideal setting for faith-filled fun, outdoor adventures, and lasting friendships. The camp is open to all children and youth within our parish community.



Parents who wish to register their children are kindly asked to reach out to Camp Master Mr. Mike Wisbiski at [mikewisbiski@gmail.com](mailto:mikewisbiski@gmail.com) for details and registration information.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for your child to grow in faith, enjoy nature, and be part of a joyful and enriching summer tradition!

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## Yullia Receives First Holy Communion

*A Day of Grace, Family, and Faith*

What a beautiful and joy-filled occasion it was as Yullia received her First Holy Communion at All Saints Parish. Dressed in white and adorned with reverence and innocence, she carried with her not only a prayer book and calendar but also a most treasured gift—a delicate rosary once owned by a beloved, now-departed parishioner. The rosary, passed lovingly into her hands, became a powerful symbol of the unity of the Church across generations, binding the living

and the faithful departed in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Yullia's family looked on with pride, love, and tears of gratitude. Their hearts overflowed as they witnessed her take this sacred step in her spiritual journey. For the past year, Yullia has studied faithfully with Father Jim each Saturday morning—over lessons, smiles, and coffee (well, mostly Father Jim's coffee). These mornings became more than catechesis; they were moments of



spiritual formation and joy; a true expression of pastoral care and the life of the Church lived in relationship.

Her parents, devout and supportive, have nurtured her faith at home and in the parish community. The family stood close by, beaming with pride, knowing that their prayers and guidance had helped pave the way. We all witnessed how the love of Christ and the sacraments draw a family closer to God, and to one another.



Receiving Holy Communion for the first time is one of the most sacred and meaningful moments in the life of a young Catholic. The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, given to us as spiritual nourishment and as a sign of our unity with Him and with the entire Church. In this sacrament, we are drawn more deeply into Christ's love, called to be holy, and strengthened to live as faithful disciples.



We rejoice with Yullia and her family and continue to hold her in prayer as she grows in faith and love in the Lord.

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## **A Note of Heartfelt Thanks**

*From Father Jim*

Dear Parish Family,



I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the kindness and generosity you showed me on Clergy Appreciation Day. I was truly touched by the many thoughtful cards, warm wishes, gifts, a lovely dinner out, handcrafted items, and especially your prayers. Each gesture—big or small—meant so much to me, and I continue to be overwhelmed by your sincerity, support, and love.



I've said it before, and I'll say it again: serving All Saints Parish is the greatest blessing of my life. Every week, I am grateful for the privilege of walking with you in faith. The smiles, the kind words, the shared moments of prayer and worship are the blessings that fill my heart.

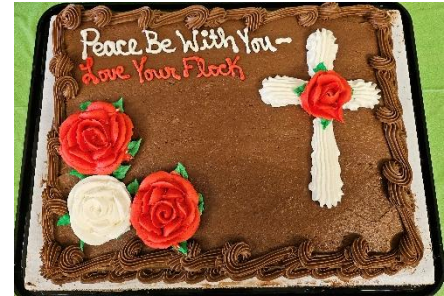


The love I feel for this parish family is deep and enduring. To be part of a community that is Christ-centered, compassionate, respectful, eager to grow, and rich in virtue is truly a gift. You make up a winning team—not just in spirit, but in the way you live your faith with joy and humility.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. I hold each of you in my prayers, and I give thanks to God daily for the gift of being your priest.

In Christ's peace,  
**Father Jim**

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### **Did You Know? Saint Thomas and the Chaldean Catholic Church**

Did you know that Saint Thomas the Apostle is considered the spiritual founder and patron of the Chaldean Catholic Church? This Eastern Catholic Church, in communion with Rome, traces its origins to the ancient Church of the East, evangelized by St. Thomas along with his disciples St. Addai and St. Mari.

The Chaldean Church celebrates its faith using the East Syriac Rite, preserving rich liturgical customs distinct from the Latin tradition. Though its historical roots lie in Mesopotamia, especially Iraq, Chaldean Catholic communities now flourish globally, with a significant presence in Michigan.

Once separated from the Roman Catholic Church over Christological debates, the Chaldeans reunited with Rome in 1551. Saint Thomas, once known for his doubt, ultimately made a profound confession of faith: “My Lord and my God!”—a testament that continues to inspire those who wrestle with belief today. His legacy remains deeply embedded in the Chaldean and National Catholic spiritual identity.

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



## 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.**

### Making 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.



**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.

## Empowered by the Spirit: A Pentecost Blessing for Olivia

During the Solemnity of Pentecost—when the Church rejoices in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit—our All Saints parish family experienced a moment of profound grace and love. In the spirit of the early Church, which “was all together in one place” (Acts 2:1), we gathered as one body to pray for one of our own: Olivia.



At the time of intercessory prayer, the congregation was invited to encircle Olivia, a recent high school graduate preparing to enter university with the noble goal of becoming a nurse. With reverence and affection, hands were extended and laid upon her shoulders as prayers were lifted to heaven, invoking the Spirit of wisdom, strength, and protection to be with her in every step of her new journey.

It was a beautiful and moving act of unity—both symbolic and sacramental—expressing our belief that the Holy Spirit continues to work in and through us as a community. As tongues of fire once descended upon the Apostles, so too did we call upon the Spirit to rest upon Olivia: to ignite her heart with compassion, to enlighten her mind with knowledge, and to strengthen her will to serve others with Christlike love.

Dear Olivia, we are so proud of you. As you set forth into the new and exciting chapter of university life, always remember that you do not walk alone. The Holy Spirit goes before you, and your parish family surrounds you with love and prayer. May your calling to nursing be a vessel of healing grace in a world in need.

We love you, Olivia. Go with God.





<div> <div>July</div> <div>2025</div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				3	KURS Encampment Begins	5
6 Holy Mass at 10:00 am	7	8	9	10	KURS Encampment Ends	12
13 Holy Mass at 10:00 am	14	15	16 Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	17	Youth Night	19
20 Holy Mass at 10:00 am Parish Committee	21 Youth Gathering	22 Youth Gathering	23 Youth Gathering	24 Youth Gathering	25 Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament	26
27 Holy Mass at 10:00 am	28	29	30 NUC Convention	31 NUC Workshop	NUC Workshop	



August 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<sup>3</sup> Holy Mass at 10:00 am	<sup>4</sup> Feast: Finding the Body of St. Stephen	<sup>5</sup>	<sup>6</sup> Solemnity: Transfiguration of our Lord	<sup>7</sup>	<sup>8</sup>	<sup>9</sup>
<sup>10</sup> Holy Mass at 10:00 am	<sup>11</sup>	<sup>12</sup>	<sup>13</sup>	<sup>14</sup>	<sup>15</sup> Solemnity: Dormition/Assumption of the BVM <b>Youth Night</b>	<sup>16</sup> YMS of R Golf Tournament
<sup>17</sup> Holy Mass at 10:00 am Parish Picnic	<sup>18</sup>	<sup>19</sup>	<sup>20</sup>	<sup>21</sup>	<sup>22</sup> Articles for September/October March: All Saints	<sup>23</sup>
<sup>24</sup> Holy Mass at 10:00 am Parish Committee	<sup>25</sup> Feast Bartholomew, Apostle	<sup>26</sup> Solemnity: Our Lady of Czestochowa	<sup>27</sup>	<sup>28</sup>	<sup>29</sup> Solemnity: Beheading of <a href="#">John the Baptist</a>	<sup>30</sup>
<sup>31</sup> Holy Mass at 10:00 am	<sup>Laor Day</sup>					





## Perfect Gift for Mother's Day!

### Personalized Pierogi Cutter

A special gift for moms, grandmas, and everyone who loves making pierogi! This pierogi cutter is a must-have for every kitchen. And it makes the perfect Mother's Day gift! **Order today!**

#### Features:

- ✓ Personalize with up to 12 characters
- ✓ Available in 4 colors: Green, Pink, Blue, and Yellow
- ✓ Only \$14.95 each + \$5.00 shipping per order

#### How to Order:

1. Fill out the order form below
2. Make checks payable to: **All Saints PNCC**
3. Mail the order form and payment to:  
**All Saints PNCC**  
5555 17 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48310.



Questions? Call (216) 650-5596

#### Order Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pierogi Cutters: \_\_\_\_\_

Select Your Color: (if ordering more than one indicate quantity of each color)

( ) Pink ( ) Green ( ) Blue ( ) Yellow

Name for Personalization (up to 8 characters): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Total: \$14.95 x Quantity + \$5.00 shipping per order)



Let's make this simple tool a symbol of great connection to family, tradition, and church.

## Pierogi Cutter Fundraiser – Invite Others to Join! 🍡

Looking for a meaningful way to support our parish and share a cherished tradition?

Our **Personalized Pierogi Cutter Fundraiser** is underway, and we need your help to spread the word!

These unique kitchen tools make *wonderful gifts*, and all proceeds go to support **All Saints PNCC**.

### How You Can Help

We're asking parishioners and friends to reach out and invite others to participate. Think of:

- **Friends** who love to cook
- **Neighbors** who enjoy cultural gifts
- **Coworkers** looking for unique holiday ideas
- **Family members** who appreciate something homemade and heartfelt



## Additional Church and Affiliate Websites:

Polish National Catholic Church  
[www.pncc.org](http://www.pncc.org)

Western Diocese PNCC  
[www.westerndiocese.org](http://www.westerndiocese.org)

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

Polish National Alliance [www.pna-znp.org](http://www.pna-znp.org)

Spojnia Credit Union (SCU)  
[www.spojniacreditunion.org](http://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



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.

### ★ July Birthdays and Anniversaries ★

26<sup>th</sup> Dima Dauo

28<sup>th</sup> Pat Kotelnicki

30<sup>th</sup> John Darr

20<sup>th</sup> Marianne/Craig Markiewicz

21<sup>st</sup> Elaine/Father Ploskonka

25<sup>th</sup> Ellen/Rody Yezman

### ★ August Birthdays ★

9<sup>th</sup> Russell Filips

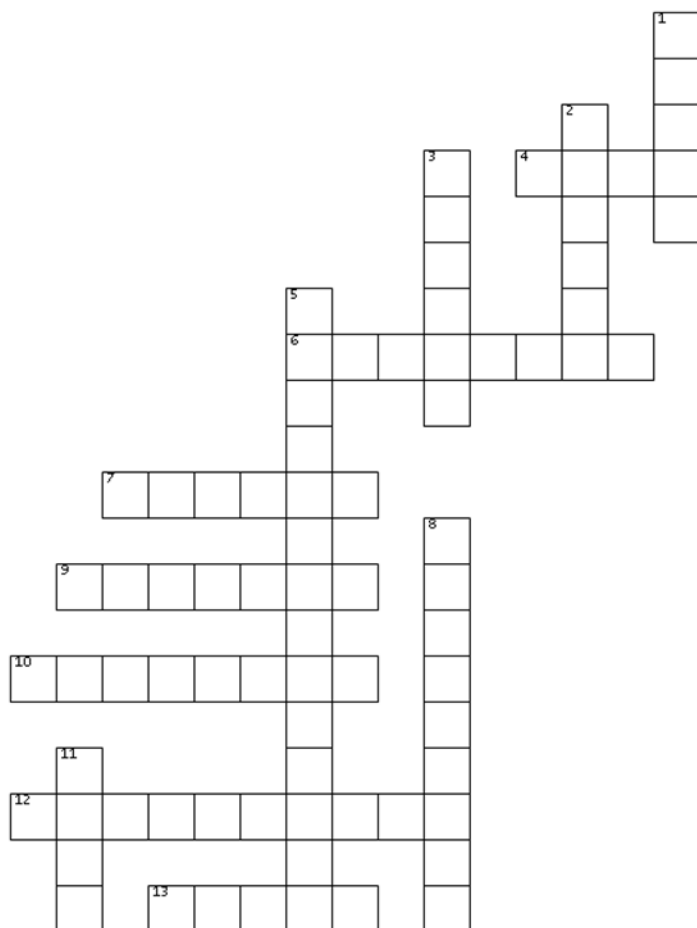
18<sup>th</sup> Darise McGee

23<sup>rd</sup> Donald Wechselberger

24<sup>th</sup> Rosemarie Richard

26<sup>th</sup> Shannon Carr





### ACROSS

4. Saint who we hear from every Sunday in this Cycle's Gospel
6. Liturgical Season in the Church
7. Day of Independence
9. His Body was found on August 4th
10. National Youth Project 2026
12. Parish Chairman
13. Will be Gathering this summer in Indiana

### DOWN

1. One of the Apostles, this one is Greater
2. Current Pierogi Fundraiser
3. Celebrated her First Communion
5. He was beheaded
8. The Transfiguration of our Lord is one
11. School of Christian Living committee/group



### Put a Smile on Your Face ("reed" below)

A little boy was listening to a long and excessively boring sermon in church. Suddenly his eye, the red sanctuary lamp, caught his eye. Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go?"

A Catholic boy and a Jewish boy were talking and the Catholic boy said, "My priest knows more than your rabbi." The Jewish boy said, "Of course he does, you tell him everything."

After the Baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."





## Stuffed Zucchini

Stuffed zucchini with sausage filling, tomato sauce, and cheese. Serve with French bread and a salad for a satisfying summer meal.

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 1 hr

Total Time: 1 hr 10 mins

Servings: 6

Yield: 6 stuffed zucchini halves

### Ingredients

3 medium zucchini

1 pound pork sausage

1 cup dry bread crumbs

½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 clove garlic, minced

1 (32 ounce) jar spaghetti sauce

½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese



### Steps

1. Gather all ingredients and preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Trim stems from zucchini and slice lengthwise. Scoop out seeds and place them in a large bowl. Add sausage, breadcrumbs, Parmesan cheese, and garlic; mix to combine.
3. Stuff squash with sausage mixture and arrange in a 9x13-inch baking pan. Pour spaghetti sauce over the top and cover with aluminum foil.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until sausage is browned and cooked through, about 45 minutes. Remove foil and sprinkle with mozzarella cheese; continue to cook until cheese is melted, about 15 minutes more.
5. Enjoy!







**ROTHLAND GOLF COURSE  
12089 CLARENCE CENTER ROAD  
AKRON, NY 14001**

Our Buffalo, NY branch of the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection (YMS of R), Branch 20, will be hosting our 12th Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, August 16! Come join the fun playing a scramble golf format, rain or shine, to benefit the United YMS of R Youth Fund. Not a golfer? You can still attend the fabulous awards dinner at Rothland Golf Course.

We will have three divisions: **YMS of R Division**, where all members of the foursome are YMS of R members; **Open Division**, with nonmembers of the YMS of R in any combination of men and women; and **Open Women's Division**, where all four team members are women. All Seniors and women will hit from the appropriate tee box.

Contact branch chairman Bob Giczowski at 716-359-6645 for more information. We hope to see you there!

Dear Parishioners,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the summer season.

I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who participated in our Spring Clean-Up over Memorial Weekend. Thanks to your hard work, All Saints is looking beautiful both inside and out! A special word of gratitude goes to Carol and her team, who took on the big job of cleaning and organizing the rectory garage—well done!

In addition to the clean-up, we made some much-needed repairs around the property. Potholes in the parking lot were patched, and just last week a professional company seal-coated and re-stripped the lot. Everything looks fresh and inviting.

You may still notice a pothole in the concrete at the end of the driveway—please know that this falls under the city's jurisdiction. We'll continue to follow up and do our best to get it addressed.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that our Parish Picnic is planned for the end of August. However, due to back-to-school schedules, the date may be moved up a week or two. We'll keep you posted, so please stay tuned!

Lastly, thank you—each and every one of you—for all that you do for All Saints. Your generosity, time, and spirit do not go unnoticed. As a quick reminder, Carol's fundraising thermometer for the rectory basement repair project is slowly but surely rising. We still have a ways to go, but every contribution helps, no matter the size.

Wishing you continued blessings and a joyful summer.

With gratitude,  
Jeff Kotelnicki  
Chairman, Parish Committee  
All Saints Parish



## Sermon: Easter 3C

***“Follow me!”***

*Acts 5:27b-32,40-41, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19*

### **With Jesus, Every Failure Can Become a Feast** *Reflections for the Fourth Sunday of Easter*



Have you ever had one of those days—or even one of those seasons—when nothing seemed to go right? When your best efforts left you drained and disheartened? If so, you are not alone—and today’s Gospel message offers hope precisely for moments like these.

Easter is more than an event marked by an empty tomb. It is the living reality of a Savior who steps into our emptiness and fills it with His presence. Jesus does not wait for us to have it all together; instead, He meets us in our weakness, in our weariness, and on the very shoreline of our failures.

This Sunday’s readings center around one such meeting. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see Peter, once paralyzed by fear, now boldly proclaiming the Risen Christ. The Holy Spirit has transformed his hesitations into holy conviction. Psalm 30 echoes this transformation, assuring us that even in the darkest nights of sorrow, God’s joy comes in the morning. And in the Book of Revelation, Saint John offers a glimpse of heavenly glory, where Christ—the Lamb of God—is forever worshipped for the gift of redemption that none of us could ever earn.

But perhaps the most touching scene unfolds in today’s Gospel. The disciples are exhausted, fishing all night with no success. The dawn breaks over the Sea of Galilee, and a voice calls out from the shore: “Children, have you caught anything to eat?”

It is Jesus—appearing for the third time since His Resurrection—not in the Temple or a palace, but on a simple shoreline, beside a crackling fire, among weary fishermen. They obey His command to cast the nets again, and this time they catch 153 fish. The nets do not break, and the disciples realize: “It is the Lord!”

For Peter, this moment is especially poignant. The last time he stood by a charcoal fire, he denied Jesus three times. Now, beside another fire, Jesus offers not condemnation but restoration. With each of His three questions, “Simon, son of



John, do you love Me?”—He heals Peter’s heart and recommissions him to serve: “Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep.”

Jesus does not discard Peter’s past but transforms it. He doesn’t need the disciples’ fish—He already has breakfast cooking—but He invites them to bring what they have. That’s grace: God delights in our offerings, however small, and makes them part of His great work.

This is the heart of Easter. Not that we always succeed, but that Christ never gives up on us. Each of us, like Peter, can begin again. Every failure can be a feast. Every denial can become a declaration of love. Every empty net can be filled at the Lord’s command.

So let us draw near, bringing whatever we carry—our weariness, our regret, our love. For even now, the Risen Christ stands on the shore of our lives and says, “Follow Me.”

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## Sermon: Easter 4C

***“No one can take them out of my hand!”***

*Acts 13:14,43-52, Revelation 7:9,14-17, John 10:27-30*

### **Held in Love: The Voice of the Good Shepherd**

This year, Good Shepherd Sunday beautifully coincides with Mother’s Day—a perfect pairing of love, care, and unwavering devotion. On this day, we give thanks for our mothers and all the women who have shepherded our lives with compassion, strength, and quiet sacrifice. Their love is often the first echo of God’s love we ever experience.



We also turn our hearts to Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, who declares in today’s Gospel: “*My sheep hear My voice. I know them, and they follow me... No one can take them out of My hand.*” These words are not just poetic—they are deeply personal. Jesus is not a distant deity; He is a shepherd who knows our name, walks before us, and calls us to follow.

Throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself as a shepherd—feeding, guiding, and protecting His people. From Isaiah’s tender image of God carrying lambs close to



His heart to David's proclamation, "*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want,*" we are reminded again and again that God leads us with love, not fear.

Today's readings build on that theme. In Acts, Paul and Barnabas proclaim salvation not just to the Jews but to the Gentiles as well, fulfilling the promise that God's love is for all. In Revelation, we're given a heavenly glimpse of a great multitude from every nation, robed in white, praising the Lamb who is also our Shepherd. They have come through hardship—but now, He wipes away every tear and leads them to living waters.

And in John's Gospel, Jesus makes three powerful claims: He knows His sheep, He gives them eternal life, and He protects them. His voice still speaks—through Scripture, in prayer, in the sacraments, and through the Church. His voice leads not to guilt, but to grace. Not to fear, but to freedom.

In a world filled with noise, we must ask: *Whose voice are we following?* Every day, we are bombarded by voices—some uplifting, but many others misleading, divisive, or discouraging. But only one voice brings peace, truth, and life.

The voice of the Good Shepherd does not demand perfection. It invites us to be found. And the hand that holds us? It's the same hand that calmed storms, lifted the fallen, and bore the wounds of the Cross. That hand will never let us go.

So today, as we honor our mothers and celebrate the risen Christ, take heart in this unshakable promise:

**You are known. You are loved. You are held.  
And no one can take you out of His hand.**

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## Sermon: Easter 5C

### **“Now is the Son of Man Glorified!”**

*Acts 14:21-27, Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13, Revelation 21:1-5, John 13:31-33, 34-35*



This Sunday, we step into a profound and deeply personal conversation—one that Jesus began the night before He died and that continues today with each of us. “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” These words, offered at the



Last Supper just after Judas had left to betray Him, are more than a farewell sentiment. They are the very heart of Christ's mission, the foundation of our faith, and the clearest measure of our discipleship. Jesus knew that betrayal, denial, injustice, and crucifixion awaited Him. Yet rather than shielding Himself or condemning His betrayers, He leaned fully into love. It was love glorified not in power or comfort, but in suffering and sacrifice.

This "new commandment" is both invitation and challenge. It is new not because the idea of love was unheard of—after all, the Law already called for love of God and neighbor—but because Jesus raised the bar. He does not say, "Love others as you love yourself." He says, "Love as I have loved you." And that changes everything.

Our Sunday readings give powerful context to this radical command. In Acts, Peter is questioned by fellow believers in Jerusalem about his decision to eat with Gentiles in Caesarea. To their astonishment, Peter shares how the Holy Spirit descended upon these outsiders just as it had upon the disciples at Pentecost. The message is unmistakable: God's love knows no borders. The Holy Spirit doesn't wait for human approval to move freely, welcoming all into the divine embrace.

Then comes Psalm 148, a joyful summons to worship. All of creation—angels, animals, stars, weather systems, rulers, and children—are invited into the symphony of praise. Nothing and no one is excluded. Every part of the cosmos is drawn into the celebration of God's glory.

And finally, in Revelation, we are given a breathtaking vision of hope. The seer, John, witnesses the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending from heaven. A voice declares that God's dwelling is now among humanity. There will be no more death, no more mourning, no more tears. God says, "Behold, I make all things new." This is not just a promise for the end of time, it is the Easter reality breaking into our world now.

Easter is not simply a season of alleluias and lilies—it is a summons to transformation. Christ's resurrection is not the end of the story; it is the beginning of our mission. We are called to be life-bringers in a world that often seems addicted to division and death. But here's the hard truth: love—real, Christ-like love— isn't easy. It's not tidy or sentimental. It stretches beyond our limits. It calls us to forgive when we've been deeply wounded. It demands that we offer kindness in the face of cruelty. It even asks us to pray for those who persecute us, and to serve those we find most difficult to understand or accept.



We often confuse niceness with love. But Jesus didn't say, "Be nice." He said, "Love one another as I have loved you." That means loving the unlovable, forgiving the unforgivable, and hoping for the hopeless. And He didn't just model this love from a distance—He embodied it with pierced hands, thorn-crowned humility, and a heart broken open for the world.

So, we must ask ourselves: *What does it look like for Christ to be glorified in me this week?* When we love those, we find difficult, when we offer mercy instead of retaliation, when we serve without expecting recognition, when we become vessels of compassion in a hardened world—then Christ is glorified.

This is the love the world is longing to see. It is love that proves we are truly His disciples. It is the love that builds communion—not clubs of like-minded people, but a Church radiant with grace.

And when we love like this—even imperfectly—the heavens echo the words spoken by Christ in the Upper Room:

**"Now is the Son of Man glorified."**



## Sermon: Easter 6C



### **"We Will Come to You and Make Our Home with You"**

*Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29*

Buckle up, All Saints, because this Sunday's readings light a fire under our feet! As we approach Pentecost, the Scriptures pulse with one unifying, powerful theme: the Holy Spirit is alive, active, and essential.

Let's not think of the Holy Spirit as some gentle breeze in the rafters. No—the Spirit is the divine breath in our lungs, the voice in our hearts, and the fire that ignites our mission. Without the Spirit, the Church is a car with no engine. But *with* the Spirit? We are unstoppable. As Jesus says in today's Gospel: "*We will come to you and make our home with you.*" That promise is the heart of Easter's hope and Pentecost's power.

This Sunday is especially joyful because we celebrate a sacred moment in our parish life: Yullia is receiving her First Holy Communion! Yullia, today Jesus isn't



just visiting—you are welcoming Him into the home of your heart. You are saying “yes” to His presence, peace, and promise. And we, your Church family, are filled with joy and pride as we witness your beautiful “Amen.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks from the upper room on the eve of His Passion. He doesn’t offer escape; He offers *presence*. He promises the Advocate, the Holy Spirit:

*“The Holy Spirit... will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.”*

Not just teach—*remind*. Because we forget. We forget truth when fear creeps in. We forget peace when chaos rises. But the Spirit comes to whisper what we know deep down: Jesus is here. Always.

Jesus then says: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”*

This isn’t a quiet moment of calm. This is *battle-tested*, soul-steadying, Spirit-infused peace. Peace doesn’t crumble when life shakes. Peace that anchors us in grace. Why? Because Jesus doesn’t leave us empty—He moves in.

“We will come to you and make our home with you.”

This is discipleship. This is the God who dwells in us—not visiting on weekends but abiding in every part of our lives. And in her First Communion, Yuliia experiences the first full taste of this divine indwelling.

Now, rewind to Acts 15. The early Church is in conflict. Some Jewish Christians argue that Gentile converts must follow the entire Mosaic Law. Enter Paul and Barnabas, and the first Church council is convened. But instead of arguing alone, they *pray, listen, and discern*. Then they say: *“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...”*

That’s Holy Spirit boldness. Not “we debated and compromised,” but *“we listened and followed.”* This is what it means to be Church: Spirit and community working hand in hand. That same discernment is needed today—whether making parish decisions, navigating life changes, or simply striving to be faithful.

Revelation 21 gives us a glorious image of New Jerusalem. There is no temple—because God is the temple. No sun or moon—because the Lamb is the light. This is



no far-off fantasy. This is God saying, *“I’m not waiting for someday—I’m moving in now.”*

So what’s your “when it happens” moment? That challenge, loss, or unanswered prayer? Jesus knew they would come. That’s why He said: *“I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.”*

Believe in the God who stays. Believe in peace that endures. Believe that nothing—no fear, no failure—can evict Him from the home He has made in your heart.

Let the Spirit lead. Let the Advocate remind you. Let His presence change everything.



**“We will come to you and make our home with you.”**

**Sermon: The Solemnity of Ascension** Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23 Luke 24:46-53

### **“Stay in the City – A Daily Retreat to Be Renewed”**

We find ourselves at a special moment in the Church year, the days between the Ascension and Pentecost. Jesus has returned to the Father, and yet, before sending His disciples out into the world, He gave them one clear instruction: *“Stay in the city until you have with power from on high”* (Luke 24:49, NRSV). That’s it. *Stay.*



*been clothed*

Now imagine being one of them. You’ve seen the Risen Lord. You’ve heard His final words. Your heart is burning to do something, to go somewhere to act! And yet, Jesus says, “Wait. Stay. Don’t move until you’ve been empowered by the Holy Spirit.”

This wasn’t just a delay, it was a retreat. A time of preparation, prayer, and listening. For nine days, they gathered in the upper room, together, praying with one heart. That time became the Church’s first novena—a spiritual retreat preparing them for the fire of Pentecost.

And here’s the beautiful part: we’re invited into that same retreat.

Every year, we get this window between Ascension and Pentecost to spiritually *“stay in the city.”* Not to stop everything in our lives, but to step intentionally into



God's presence each day. To say, "Lord, prepare me. Renew me. Make me ready for what You're calling me to do."

Think of it like the Men's Retreat the YMSofR hosts—where we set time aside to focus on the Holy Spirit and open our hearts to Christ's call. This isn't about withdrawing from the world but about drawing closer to the Lord so we can be sent back out with clarity and courage.

So what if, starting today, we each made a commitment? Nine days. A few extra minutes each day in prayer. A Scripture verse to reflect on. A journal entry. A walk in silence. A moment to breathe and say, "Come, Holy Spirit."

Because friends, the Spirit is coming. And when He does, He doesn't just restore what's broken—He empowers, equips, and sends us to the next level in our journey with Christ.

So let us stay—right here, where God has placed us—and make these days a holy upper room. A place of retreat, renewal, and readiness. Come, Holy Spirit. We're listening.



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### **Easter 7C Sermon: "On Behalf of Those Who Will Believe in Me"**

*Acts 7:55-60 Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20 John 17:20-26*

### **A Message of Hope and Unity**

What a beautiful truth: Jesus prayed for you. Yes, you—sitting in church, reading this newsletter, living out your faith. In the Gospel of John, chapter 17, we read what's known as Jesus' "High Priestly Prayer." He had just finished praying for His disciples—Peter, James, John, and the rest. But then, He shifted. He said, "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word." That's us.

We are here because someone shared the Gospel with us. That word—the same one passed down by the apostles—made its way to us through preaching, through Scripture, through the Church's sacraments. And Jesus, in His final hours, paused to pray for our faith, our journey, and our future.

In our first reading from Acts, we witness the powerful and courageous witness of St. Stephen, the first martyr. Even while being stoned, he looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He forgave his attackers and entrusted his spirit



to the Lord. His final words echoed the mercy of Jesus Himself. St. Jerome reminds us of Stephen's fearless love is a rallying cry to us: stand firm, forgive boldly, and look up. Jesus is with us.

In Revelation, we are given a vision of the end—our glorious beginning, really. Christ calls out, “Surely I am coming soon,” and the Church responds with joy, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” That is the bold heartbeat of Christian hope. Christ isn't far off—He is near, and His return is the fulfillment of every promise. Every tear will be wiped away. Every sorrow will be transformed into joy. And we, His Church, live in this “in-between” with confidence and expectation.

So what did Jesus pray for us in John 17? That we may all be one. A unity not based on opinions or convenience, but a deep, spiritual oneness rooted in God's own love. “As You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us.” It's not a unity we create—it's one we receive. And even when the visible Church seems divided, this unity still stands.

And here's the joy: our unity is our mission. When the Church lives in love and truth, the world notices. “So that the world may believe that You sent Me,” Jesus says.

At All Saints, we are blessed with a community that truly reflects this prayer. We are united, we care for one another, and we are growing—in vision, in faith, and in Spirit. That's no accident. That's the answer to a prayer Jesus prayed over 2,000 years ago. Let's keep saying “Amen” to that prayer with our lives.

**“On behalf of those who will believe in Me.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**



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### **Pentecost Sermon: “Come Holy Spirit”**

*Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23*



#### **Pentecost: Receive the Holy Spirit**

Pentecost is a feast of power, promise, and presence. It is not only the birthday of the Church—it is the living reminder that God still breathes His Spirit into us today.

What began in a room in Jerusalem now stretches across continents, cultures, and centuries. But here's the question: We ask for the Holy Spirit—but are we truly ready to receive Him?



The name *Pentecost* means “fiftieth,” celebrated fifty days after Passover. For the Jewish people, Pentecost—*Shebuot*—was a harvest festival, a time to give thanks for first fruits. But for Christians, Pentecost brings an even greater harvest: the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise that we would not be left alone—that the Spirit would come to comfort, guide, and empower us.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the Spirit arrive with unmistakable power. The disciples, once frightened and hidden, are suddenly emboldened by wind and flame. They proclaim the Gospel in every language under heaven. What was once scattered at the Tower of Babel is now united by the Spirit of God. This is the miracle of Pentecost: human limitations are overcome by divine fire.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that the Spirit isn’t just for apostles—it’s for *all* believers. Each of us has been given gifts—not for our own sake, but for the building up of the Body of Christ. Whether your gift is service, compassion, leadership, or prayer—it is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Paul’s words are clear: “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Then in the Gospel, we are drawn into that sacred moment when the Risen Jesus appears to His apostles. He breathes on them and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” With this breath, Jesus gives them peace, purpose, and power. They are entrusted with His mission—and with the authority to forgive. That gift, planted in the apostles, still blossoms today in every Sacrament, every act of reconciliation, every soul open to grace.

So, what does this mean for us?

It means that Pentecost is not just a commemoration, it is a commission. The Holy Spirit is not distant or abstract. He lives in us. He convicts, comforts, challenges, and calls. He urges us to move from fear to faith, from self-preservation to Gospel proclamation.

But here’s the heart of it: we often pray, “Come, Holy Spirit,” yet we hold back the very parts of our hearts that need healing. The Spirit is gentle, but He is not tame. When He comes, He changes things. And that can be uncomfortable.

That’s why the question is not, *do we want the Holy Spirit?* The real question is: *Are we ready to receive Him?*

To receive the Spirit means:



- Remembering His presence, especially in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.
- Leaning on Him for strength against temptation.
- Listening to His voice through Scripture and the wisdom of others.
- Asking for His gifts—and using them.
- Letting Him transform our habits, our thinking, our relationships.
- Living lives marked by courage, sacrifice, forgiveness, and joy.

We are called to love as Jesus loved—without counting the cost. As St. Paul writes, “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

So let this Pentecost be more than a feast. Let it be a fire. Let it renew your home, your prayer, your service, your joy. Don’t just admire the Spirit—*receive* Him.

Say yes to His presence. Say yes to His power. Say yes to the mission.

And above all, listen once again to the voice of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, who says to you now:

**“Receive the Holy Spirit.”**



## **Trinity Sunday: "I Have Much More to Tell You"**

*Proverbs 8:22-31, Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15*

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we’re invited not to solve a puzzle, but to enter a mystery. That may sound intimidating, but it’s freeing. A puzzle has a clear answer and an endpoint. A mystery, by contrast, expands us, invites us deeper, to stand in awe and allow something greater than ourselves to transform us.



This is the mystery of God: one Divine Nature, three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While the word *Trinity* doesn’t appear in Scripture, the reality of it is woven through the Gospels and epistles. At Jesus’ baptism, we hear the voice of the Father, see the presence of the Son, and witness the descent of the Holy Spirit. In the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to baptize “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” And in the blessing at the end of



many of St. Paul's letters, we hear: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you."

The Trinity is not a concept to memorize, but a relationship to live. It is love poured out and shared creating, redeeming, sanctifying. God the Father made us. God the Son walked among us and gave His life for us. God the Holy Spirit remains with us, guiding and strengthening us every day.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says something truly beautiful and hopeful: "*I have much more to tell you.*" He knows we can't take it all in at once. But He also assures us that we're not left on our own. The Holy Spirit will guide us. That means there's always more to learn, more to receive, more to become.

So, this Trinity Sunday, ask yourself: Do I speak to God the Father as a loving parent? Do I follow Jesus not just as a teacher, but as a friend and Savior? Do I open myself to the Spirit's quiet promptings, allowing Him to shape my heart?

The mystery of the Trinity isn't distant or abstract—it's the very life of God reaching out to draw us in. Let's respond with faith, with love, and with the joyful awareness that God truly has "much more to tell us."

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### **Somenity of the Word of God**

***"Whoever Has Ears to Hear Ought to Hear."***

*Isaiah 55:6-11, I Thessalonians 2:10-13, Luke 8:4-15*

### **The Word of God: Seed, Sacrament, and Breath of Life**

In this powerful and poetic sermon, the preacher draws upon Jesus' Parable of the Sower from the Gospel of St. Luke to illuminate the mystery and vitality of the Word of God. Far from being a mere lesson or story, the Word is presented as something much deeper: a living and sacramental reality. Like a seed cast upon the earth, the Word is sown by God with lavish generosity, full of potential to transform lives—if only it finds fertile ground.

The sermon explains that, in Catholic teaching, a sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ that conveys inward grace. The Word of God, proclaimed and received in faith, is itself sacramental. It does not merely educate; it enacts. It is not static; it is performative. When the Word is proclaimed in the liturgy, or when read



prayerfully in Scripture, Christ is made present. It is not just about reading—it is about receiving grace.

To illustrate this truth, the homily shifts from the image of wheat to that of a dandelion puffball—simple, familiar, and evocative. Just as a child blows the seeds of a dandelion into the wind, so the Church breathes forth the Word of God at every Mass. Some seeds may fall on hard paths, rocks, or among thorns. But some land on fertile soil, where they grow. The preacher reminds us that no Word of God is ever wasted; as Isaiah says, it always fulfills the purpose for which God sends it.

The heart of the message is delivered through a parable within the sermon—a story of two dandelions. One teaches its seeds to trust the breath of a little boy who will one day blow them into the world. One seed, after being carried by the wind, appears to die under the heat of the sun. But later, revived by rain, it takes root, grows, and eventually bears seeds of its own. The allegory clearly mirrors the journey of the Word: sometimes seemingly dead, buried under suffering or scorched by trials—but ultimately revived by grace, transformed into new life.

The faithful are called to see themselves both as the soil and the sower. As hearers, we must ask: what kind of soil am I? Hardened, shallow, distracted—or open and ready to bear fruit? As believers, we are also called to be the stalk—to share the Word, to breathe it forth, to scatter seeds of faith by how we live and speak.

Ultimately, this sermon is a call to embrace the Word not as mere text, but as Christ Himself—alive, present, and full of grace. “Let the Word fall. Let it land. Let it die, if it must—for God will raise it up.” For the Word is not just spoken; it is sent. It is sacramental. It is life. And Christ, the Living Word, is with us. ✝



**All Are Welcome**

**Holy Mass – 10:00 AM**

**Sundays**

# All Saints Parish



Hello, All Saints Parish, in the months of May and June for our youth gatherings we went to see a movie which we all enjoyed, and we also went to a Jimmy John's baseball game and had a lot of fun.

In addition, we have been working hard on our Veteran's project. We made 138 placemats (See Article), participated in the Chesterfield Veterans Home 5K Walk, Run, and Roll that raised donations for their charitable support fund. We have also worked on table centerpieces for their 4th of July celebration. When we delivered them to the Veterans Home we stayed and volunteered for bingo.

Don't forget! We have a ongoing fundraiser to support our Youth Veterans Project. A free will donation can be given for gently used gift bags, and a station is set up in the parish hall. We thank everyone for their support.

Michael Pharris

Youth Group President

