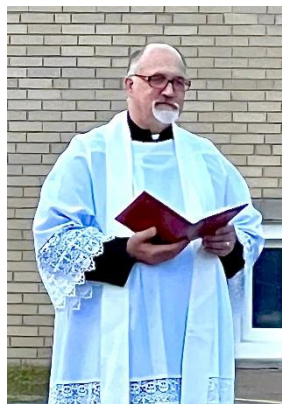


A Message from Father Jim – November/December Edition

The March with All Saints

As we enter this sacred season of Advent, our hearts turn once again toward hope, preparation, and renewal. Advent calls us to make space for the Lord—to quiet the noise, rekindle prayer, and prepare our hearts to receive Christ anew. Each candle we light on the Advent wreath draws us nearer to that holy night when the Light of the World was born in Bethlehem.



This year, our parish offers many opportunities to grow in faith and fellowship. Join us for our Advent Tea (*see page 47*), a cherished gathering filled with warmth, laughter, and reflection. Take part in our Advent Word of God Study via Zoom (*page 7*), where we will journey through Scripture that points us toward the coming of the Savior. Our Youth Nights continue to fill the parish with energy and joy, and we look forward to celebrating the traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, when candlelight, prayer, and carols fill our hearts with reverence and wonder. I am also excited to share that we will be learning a Chaldean hymn this season—linking our worship to the ancient songs of Bethlehem itself.

Each year, as Christmas draws near, our hearts are stirred by cherished memories and sacred traditions that bring faith and family together. Among the most meaningful of these is the Polish celebration of Wigilia, the Christmas Eve Vigil Supper. More than a meal, it is a sacred moment that unites generations, renews bonds of love, and reminds us that Christ is born not only in Bethlehem, but in every home where faith and kindness dwell. At All Saints, we are blessed by our heritage and by the families who continue to keep these beautiful customs alive. May the story of Wigilia inspire us all to gather with grateful hearts, to forgive freely, to welcome others warmly, and to make room—always—for the Christ Child in our midst.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish and its ministries. Bring your family to church this season, and if you feel called to share your gifts or get involved, please don't hesitate to call, text, or email me. There is always room at the table.

With prayers for a blessed Advent and joyous Christmas,

Father Jim

Contents

Parish Chariman Updates	3	Father Jim's Homilies	
Youth Night 1	4	" <i>Counting the Cost!</i> "	25
Special Parish Mtg	5	" <i>Go and Do Likewise</i> "	27
National Clergy Conference 2025	6	" <i>You Cannot Serve Two Masters.</i> "	29
77th Convention of the United YMSof R	8	Reflection: Ordinary 26C	31
Welcome Home: Sons of All Saints Celebration	11	"Increase Our Faith"	32
College Students	14	Eulogy for Louise Sardy DeCiantis	34
Commission of Lectors	15	"Obey"	35
Friends of Sunday School	16	"Call out to Him day and night!"	37
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	19	"The One Who Humbles Himself Will Be Exalted!"	39
Wigilia: A Beloved Polish Christmas Eve Tradition	20	Eulogy for Al Micka	41
Calendar of Opportunities	23	"Today Salvation Has Come to This House!"	42

Commissioning of Students and Teachers for 2025–2026

On Sunday, September 28th, our parish joyfully commissioned the teachers and students of the School of Christian Living for the 2025–2026 academic year. This annual tradition serves as a powerful reminder that faith formation is a lifelong journey—one that unites students, teachers, and families in the shared mission of growing closer to Christ.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated teachers, whose time, creativity, and faith-filled example inspire our young learners each week. We also thank our parents and parish family for their steadfast support, encouragement, and prayers, which make this ministry thrive.

This year's curriculum centers on a deepened understanding of the Holy Mass and the Solemnities of the Polish National Catholic Church. Students will explore the sacred meaning behind the prayers, gestures, and symbols of the liturgy, culminating in a special "**Teaching Mass**" series led by Father Jim. Over three weeks, Father Jim will pause at key moments in the liturgy to explain the reasons behind each action—why the priest kneels, makes the Sign of the Cross, or how Scripture is woven throughout the entire celebration of the Eucharist.

With faith, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to learning, we look forward to a grace-filled year of discovery, prayer, and spiritual growth for all.

Dear Parishioners,

Well, it's finally here, fall is upon us. With all that warm weather it's felt like just an extended summer. But now it's time to finally pull out the jackets, might even need to scrape the windows in the morning, depending on how early you get up. However, if you know me, you'll know that you can still expect to see me in my shorts for a while.

As you likely have heard, our church recently received a very generous donation! These funds will help us make some much-needed upgrades around the building. The committee is busy formulating a list of needs so that we can figure out the best way to utilize these funds. First on the list is something we've talked about for a while—a new **electronic sign** out front. It'll be a great way to keep everyone in the community updated on church events and messages and hopefully catch the eye of passersby who may not have realized we were there.

If you have any ideas for parish needs, please talk to a member of the committee and let your voice be heard. Speaking of which, I will be coming around to talk to individuals to see if you're interested in serving on the committee. Elections are coming up and we have a couple of positions that really need your support. Please consider lending your time and talents to the committee. Your parish needs you.

A big **thank-you** to **Gloria and the Friends of Sunday School** for putting on such a great **spaghetti dinner**! It was a wonderful afternoon of good food, fellowship, and fun.

And finally, as **Veterans Day** approaches, let's all take a moment to remember and thank our veterans for their service and sacrifice.

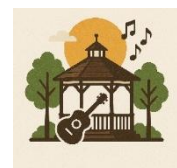
Blessings,
Jeff Kotelnicki
Chairman All Saints Committee

Youth Group Update

In September, the youth group helped with the banquet we helped with preparing tableware, clearing plates and present flowers. In October for youth gathering we went to Blake's Haunted Apple Orchard, and we had a great attendance with a lot of our youth group and friends. It was a lot of fun. In upcoming news, a youth group meeting is going to be held on November 9th after Sunday school to plan more upcoming events and charitable work for our youth group. Let's come together and plan something great.

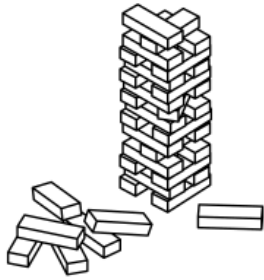
Summer Sounds at the Gazebo, Your Thoughts Needed! See page 47!

Thank you!



Youth Night – A Joyful Evening of Fun and Service!

Our Youth Night on September 19th was filled with laughter, teamwork, and community spirit! From Jenga towers to the Meme Game and friendly chess matches, the evening brought out everyone's playful side. Between rounds of fun, our youth rolled up their sleeves and took on a special service project—washing and polishing 100 spoons, 100 forks, 100 salad forks, and 100 knives in preparation for our *Welcome Home* celebration! They also helped place the new Mass Books generously provided by St. Mary's Parish in Parma.



A heartfelt *Bóg Zapłać* to Father Jason and our friends at St. Mary's for their generosity in sharing these beautiful booklets with us!

And of course, no Youth Night is complete without great food—pizza (cheese, pepperoni, and meat lovers!), Greek salad, and plenty of ice cream! The laughter was contagious, and by the end of the night, our sides were hurting from all the fun.

If you missed this one, don't worry—join us for the next Youth Night! Come for the games, stay for friendship, and discover how faith and joy truly come alive when we serve together.

Save the Date – New Year's Eve Celebration at All Saints Parish!

Ring in the New Year with faith, family, and friends!

Join us Tuesday, December 31st for a joyful evening at All Saints Parish as we give thanks for the blessings of the past year and welcome 2026 with hope and celebration.

The night will begin with Holy Mass, giving us the opportunity to start the evening in prayer and thanksgiving. Following Mass, our New Year's Eve festivities will feature food, music, fellowship, and plenty of fun!

Come celebrate the gift of community and the joy of new beginnings — there's so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to!

Save the Date: December 31st!

Details are being organized — stay tuned for more information.

If you're interested in helping plan or being part of the event, please contact **Mary**.

Let's make this New Year's Eve one to remember at All Saints Parish!

All Parish Special Meeting and Nomination for Parish Committee Service

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2025. There have been many amazing things happening at All Saints.

We have been blessed with a very large donation that will help us with capital repairs that need to be done. Our first major project is the purchase and installation of a new sign. This will be a wonderful tool to keep our announcements current and to let our neighbors know what is going on at All Saints. An all-parish meeting was held on Sunday, October 26 to approve this purchase and installation of a new sign for approximately \$30,000.00. We will be planning the next steps to repair and renovate. If you would like to be part of the process the best way is to consider to be a part of our church committee. We hold meetings following mass on the third Sunday of each month. Elections will be held on Sunday December 7th. Please contact Jeff Kotelnicki if you are interested in serving.

I would like to clarify our church dues system. There has been some confusion in the past about how this works. To be a member in good standing, with voting rights, and the eligibility to hold an office the yearly dues need to be paid. The amount of the yearly dues is \$ 150.00 per person. Out of that amount \$ 100.00 goes to the general church, \$ 25.00 goes to the Western Diocese and \$ 25.00 stays in our parish. This is mandated by the general church so we must follow their guidelines. If you want to be a member in good standing but have financial hardships, please contact Fr. Jim and accommodation can be arranged so that you have a voice in our parish. I am also available to answer any questions so feel free to contact me.

I am so very thankful to be a part of this wonderful parish. We have gone through some tough times, but I see nothing but better things in our future. We must continue to be prayerful and loving and God will lead us!

Carol Szydłowski

Financial Secretary



Father Jim attended the American Polish Century Club's Clergy Appreciation Night in recognition and honor of the role clergy play within the community.

National Clergy Conference 2025: Strengthening the Church for the Future

Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral – Lancaster, NY

October 14–15, 2025



The 2025 National Clergy Conference of the Polish National Catholic Church convened at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, New York, uniting clergy from across the nation for prayer, collaboration, and reflection. The conference focused on strengthening the Church's liturgical life, doctrinal clarity, and outreach as it prepares for the XXVII General Synod in 2026.

The National Liturgical Commission via Father Senior Rob Nemkovich reviewed updates to the *Yearly Liturgical Calendar (ORDO)*, the *Bulletin Statement on the Eucharist*, and pastoral materials on clergy funerals and eulogies. Discussion on the *Essential Elements of the Sacraments* reaffirmed their theological integrity while ensuring pastoral adaptability.

The Church Doctrine Commission via Father Scott Lill emphasized the renewal of educational materials on *Fasting and Penance* and *Veneration of the Saints* and introduced compassionate pastoral guidelines for ministry reinforcing the PNCC's commitment to truth and charity.

The Mission and Evangelism Commission highlighted outreach as central to parish vitality, with Bishop Paul Sobiechowski presenting the *New Members Class* initiative. Looking ahead, clergy anticipate the 2026 *Mission and Evangelism Workshop* as a time for renewal and creative engagement.

Father Jim Ploskonka presented the catalog for the *Savonarola Theological Seminary and Institute*, introducing non-credit theological programs for clergy and laity. Father Konicki shared updates on seminary property renovations, community

garden initiatives, and new communication efforts through the seminary website and newsletter.

In administrative matters, clergy discussed benefits, census, and vocation development, underscoring the importance of supporting the physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being of those who serve.

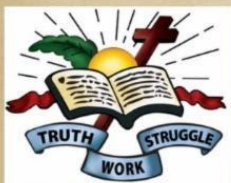
For the glory of God, the good of the Church, and the salvation of souls.

Bring Someone to the Table!

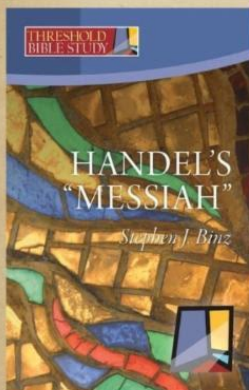
We invite you to share the joy of Christ's love and fellowship.

Bring a friend, a coworker, a relative, a neighbor—even a stranger—and join us at the Lord's table. All are welcome to experience His Word, His presence, and His grace.

Join our five-week online Advent Word of God Study—convenient, inspiring, and spiritually enriching. Prepare your heart for Christmas through Scripture, reflection, and faith-filled fellowship.



We invite you to attend the
Western Diocese PNCC
Advent Word of God Study
Handel's "Messiah"
Presented on Zoom



For 5 Tuesday Evenings
November 11 & 25 (no class on the 18th)
December 2, 9 & 16, 2025
7:00 p.m. Central / 8:00 p.m. Eastern

Facilitated by Very Rev. John Kowalczyk
& Rev. Jim Ploskonka

To purchase the book from
Twenty-Third Publications
1-800-321-0411 resources@bayardusa.com
Product code : 858441 \$12.95



77th Convention of the United Young Men's Society of Resurrection *October 24–26, 2025 – St. Mary's Parish, Parma, Ohio*

The 77th Convention of the United Y.M.S. of R. convened at St. Mary's Parish in Parma, Ohio, from October 24th through 26th, 2025, marking another inspiring chapter in the life of this faith-filled organization. The weekend was characterized by fraternity, thoughtful discussion, and a renewed commitment to the mission of the Church through the works of the Y.M.S. of R.

The gathering began on Friday evening with a warm welcome and fellowship hosted by Father Jim and Elaine Ploskonka at their home. The evening offered an atmosphere of joy, laughter, and genuine Christian friendship, setting the tone for a productive and prayerful convention weekend.

Saturday commenced with the Office of Lauds, led by the men of the National Y.M.S. of R., grounding the day in worship and gratitude. St. Mary's Parish Chairperson, Chuck Repede, then extended greetings on behalf of the parish community. Following the singing of *The Star-Spangled Banner* and the Y.M.S. of R. anthem, *Forward, O Youth*, President Nick Kazinetz officially called the convention to order. He appointed Father Jim Ploskonka as Chair of the Convention meeting. Twenty-two members and delegates participated, representing parishes from across the Church, all eager to contribute ideas and energy toward Society's future.



A highlight of the morning was an intensive planning and brainstorming session conducted before and after a delightful homemade soup luncheon, lovingly prepared by parish volunteers. Employing a formal SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) framework, participants examined the

current state of the Y.M.S. of R. and identified practical strategies for growth and renewal. The conversation was lively and collaborative, resulting in a clear set of priority goals for the next two years, including expanding youth engagement, enhancing visibility of service projects, and increasing collaboration between local branches and national leadership.

Reports and updates presented during the session reflected the vitality and faith-driven energy of the Society's ongoing ministries:

- **Winter Clothing Drive:** The effort continues to thrive, with new strategies shared to increase both donations and community participation.
- **Bishop Bilinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat:** Both the 2024 and 2025 retreats were described as spiritually enriching and well-attended, while the 2026 retreat is already shaping up to be another powerful event of faith and renewal.
- **Kurs Camp:** Praised once again for its affordability, engaging programming, and Christ-centered fellowship. The camp remains a cornerstone of Y.M.S. of R. youth outreach.
- **Golf Tournament:** Planning is underway for a Fall 2026 event that will combine fellowship, fun, and fundraising.
- **Bowling Tournament:** Scheduled for 2026, this event promises to bring together members and friends from across dioceses in friendly competition and camaraderie.

The delegates also voted to submit the names of three priests of the Polish National Catholic Church as nominees for the episcopacy—a decision reflecting deep prayer, discernment, and faith in God's guidance for the Church's future.

As the convention ended, heartfelt thanks were extended to St. Mary's Parish for their generous hospitality and to all who contributed to the weekend's success. Congratulations to Bill Konrad and Father Jim being reelected to serve on the Board of Directors of the National United YMSof R. Delegates departed with renewed enthusiasm, united in their mission to serve God, Church, and community. With hearts lifted and spirits strengthened, they echoed the timeless call of the Society's anthem—

“Forward, O Youth!”

Thank You, Trybuski's Landscaping and Lawn Service!

A heartfelt thank you to Trybuski's Landscaping and Lawn Service for the beautiful work they have done around our entire parish property! Their care, creativity, and attention to detail have truly made our grounds a place of welcome and pride.

Trybuski's provides both commercial and residential landscaping and lawn care. They are licensed, insured, and dedicated to quality service year-round.

If you are looking for trustworthy professionals to care for your lawn or garden, give them a call at 313-274-6873 — and do not forget to tell them All Saints Parish sent you!



Pew Jokes



- ✓ What do you call a deacon, a priest, and a bishop asking for food at a restaurant? ***Holy Orders!***
- ✓ What do you call an angel that seats you at a restaurant? ***A Heavenly Host!***
- ✓ Who suggested the use of potato chips instead of bread for communion? You'd think it was some renegade priest who suggested it, but no, it was a ***LAY'S person!***
- ✓ I don't like incense jokes. They are just ***Thurible!***
- ✓ Did that last joke leave you feeling Incensed?
- ✓ Seriously, though, incense jokes ought to ***be Censered!***

Bring Someone to the Table!

We invite you to share the joy of Christ's love and fellowship.

Bring a friend, a coworker, a relative, a neighbor—even a stranger—and join us at the Lord's table. All are welcome to experience His Word, His presence, and His grace.

Welcome Home: Sons of All Saints Celebration



On Saturday, September 27, 2025, All Saints Parish was filled to overflowing as parishioners, friends, and guests gathered for a truly historic and joy-filled occasion—the *Sons of All Saints Recognition Banquet* honoring The Right Reverend Paul Sobiechowski and The Reverend Joseph Lewandowski.

The celebration began with a Solemn High Mass at 3:00 p.m., concelebrated by our own native sons, Bishop Paul and Father Joe. Not a single seat remained available, as the faithful gathered to give thanks for the many years of dedicated priestly service offered by these remarkable men who first heard the call to serve within our parish walls. The liturgy resounded with prayer, song, and heartfelt thanksgiving for their ministry to God's people.



Following the Mass, a festive banquet took place in the parish hall, beginning with a warm cocktail hour. The evening's program, gracefully led by Master of Ceremonies Mike Szydłowski, beautifully reflected the spirit of gratitude and pride shared by all in attendance. Guests enjoyed a lively performance by the Zakopane Dancers, whose traditional songs and dances added a joyful cultural touch to the evening.

Messages of congratulations and blessings were shared from His Grace, Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bishop Nowicki, Father Senior Charles Zawistowski, The Honorable Gretchen, Whitmer Governor of Michigan, Nick Kainetz, President of the Y.M.S. of R., Lydia Hohn, President of the National United Choirs, and Jeff Kolenciki, Chair of All Saints Parish Committee. Each tribute spoke eloquently of the lasting influence Bishop Paul and Father Joe have had on the life of the Church, both locally and nationally.





The evening was made even more special through the involvement of our youth, who served as hosts, greeters, and attendants throughout the celebration. Their joyful participation and reverent service embodied the living faith and bright future of All Saints Parish.

In every sense, this was a *homecoming to remember*—a moment when the past and present of our parish converged in celebration, thanksgiving, and love. May God continue to bless Bishop Paul and Father Joe for their steadfast devotion, and may their example continue to inspire future generations of “Sons and Daughters of All Saints.”





Planning Committee and Parish Committee

Pat, Sarah, Carol (Chair), Jennifer,
Gloria, Dan, Sharon, Marcia,
Dwight, Mike, Jennifer and Bill

And Clergy



Pet Blessing 2025

18 Dogs

See Page 13



Catching Up with Our College Students – Father Jim Visits Shane and Olivia

This fall, Father Jim took to the road for one of his favorite kinds of journeys—a *pastoral road trip* to visit two of All Saints Parish’s college students who are doing wonderful things in their studies and lives.



The first stop was Oakland University in Rochester, a vibrant campus founded in 1957 that has become one of Michigan’s premier institutions for healthcare education. There, Father Jim met Olivia, daughter of Jennifer and Jeff, who is in her first semester of the Nursing Program. They enjoyed a delicious meal at a nearby Italian restaurant—so good, in fact, that Father Jim joked, “*It’s no wonder I enjoy going*

on these road trips!” Their conversation flowed easily from classes and faith to family, music, and the ups and downs of college life. Olivia shared her excitement about learning to care for others with compassion and skill, and how faith helps keep her focused during demanding days.

The next stop took Father Jim to Michigan State University in East Lansing—home of the Spartans and one of the nation’s oldest land-grant universities, founded in 1855. There he met Shane, son of Jill and John, who will be graduating in December with a degree in Computer Science. The two enjoyed dinner at Shane’s recommendation—an outstanding Mexican restaurant called Acapulco’s, where the food was excellent and the company even better.



Their conversations with both students touched on everything from future aspirations to faith, sports, and even a bit of humor about “solving all the world’s problems.” It was an uplifting reminder of the joy and hope found in our young people as they prepare to step into the future.

Please keep Shane and Olivia in your prayers and, if you can, send them a card or an email. These are remarkable young adults—bright, faithful, and full of promise—wonderful reflections of the All Saints Parish family!

Commissioning of Lectors

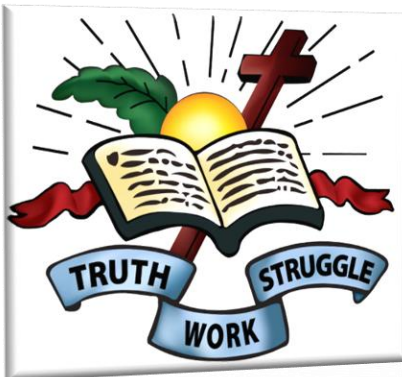


I present to you Jennifer, Michael, Sarah, Dima and Gloria who were admitted to the ministry of lector at **All Saints** Parish and within the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church. We are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. These are prepared: by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at

worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their Ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of His Church?

Almighty God, whose blessed Son read the Holy Scriptures in the synagogue: Look graciously upon the Lectors of Your Church, and so enlighten them with wisdom and understanding that they may read and proclaim Your Holy Word to the glory of Your Name, and for the building up of Your people; we ask this through Christ our Lord. *(extracted from Ritual of the Polish National Catholic Church, 2014)*

The Symbol National Catholic Church



THE BOOK represents the revealed Word of God.

THE SUN is the sign of religious freedom and fervor.

THE CROSS is the mark of suffering and consecration for others.

THE PALM is the symbol of well-earned peace.

Friends of Sunday School by Gloria Bawol



The month of November reminds us of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and how blessed we are. However, there are many that are not as lucky. There is such a need in our local communities. Children are cold and hungry within a 30-mile radius of All Saints Church. Why is this so important to know? Because Jesus asked us to be generous and to care for the poor. *“Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes: He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help other who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.”* 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

FOSS (Friends of Sunday School) will be starting the Giving Tree this year with a new theme: To help those impacted by the Government shutdown. Jennifer K. will be setting up the tree on November 2nd. We have chosen the Maple Street Group Home in Algonac (Daria M. resides there). The home will be losing their food assistance as of November 1st. There will be “Ornament” tags on the tree for various food items, but Kroger, Sam’s Club and Meijer gift cards are a great idea too. Marianne M. will deliver our collection in six weeks, December 16th. Let's make this the largest Giving Tree donation ever from All Saints Church.

A special thank you goes to all who donated infant supplies during September and October. Marianne M. delivered the supplies to ‘Kids in Distress.’ The lady was grateful. Again, we reinforce the want in our community for needy families. There were many more diapers, but they were taken before this was photographed.



Sunday School classes have been going very well as our youth are learning about; the Holy Mass, what God is saying to them during Church, the PNCC Solemnities, what they are grateful for and what intentions they have for the upcoming week. Confirmation classes taught by Father Jim are moving along as expected. This is a two-year program. Some classes are on Zoom and others are face to face. We were grateful for the Commissioning Service performed by Father Jim to bless all the teachers this year.

What a bonus to have our youth. They volunteered to assist at the Recognition Banquet for Bishop Paul and Father Joe. They were very professional as they prepared the silverware ahead of time and then, during the banquet, they bussed the tables. Many positive comments were received from the guests as to our youth's respectfulness and kindness. They also delivered bouquets of roses to our dignitaries. During Sunday's Mass our youth did the readings. This is an amazing experience to develop public speaking skills for their future. We are pleased to have our youth be readers each month. And a bonus! Dima D. requested and was accepted to become a lecturer for our church on a regular rotation.

Many thanks to our congregation for supporting the Annual Spaghetti Dinner. The money raised helps to fund curriculum, supplies and events to support our youth. Our FOSS members went beyond to supply the food, desserts, beverages and assist in the set up and clean-up after the dinner.



Traditionally, FOSS has a Halloween party at the end of October. We decided to change things up this year and combine our monthly youth night and Halloween party. Instead, we opted to go to Blakes Haunted House and Hayride in Armada. It was a spooky night for our youth and sponsors, but fun was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the donors that helped to offset the cost of the tickets.



Future youth gatherings will occur on the third Friday of the month, 5-8 PM at the church hall unless the venue is off site. November 14, December 19, January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19. Put these dates in your calendar. Watch for specifics on the church website, allsaintspncc.org and in the weekly bulletin. Special thanks to Andrea P. and Sharon S. for these communication tools.

An election of FOSS officers was held in October. Results:

- Gloria B – President,
- Andrea P. – Vice-President,
- Mary C. – Secretary,
- Jill C. – Treasurer,
- Jeff K. - Auditor.

A special thank you to Jennifer K. who retired from the office of secretary. She was amazing. Congratulations also go out to Michael P. He was elected to the office of Secretary of the Western Diocese Youth.

December is just around the corner. Please make note of the following activities.

- Spojnia Bowling at Five Star Lanes, December 7th at 4 PM. No charge for our Youth (*See 23 page for more details.*)
- Midnight Mass: A special gift will be distributed to the congregation as a thank you from FOSS
- Christmas Day: Happy Birthday Jesus cake and song after Mass
- Special entertainment from our youth at both Masses. Be sure you are there to see.
- Possible All Saints trip to visit a living nativity. More details are to be announced.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these commands that I am giving you today. Teach them to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working. Tie them on your arms and wear them on your foreheads as a reminder. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6: 5-9.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi –

On October 4 at noon, All Saints Parish joyfully celebrated the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi* with our annual Blessing of the Pets. Father Jim led a heartfelt outdoor prayer service honoring St. Francis—the beloved patron saint of animals and creation—reminding us that from the very beginning, God entrusted us with His creatures as companions and signs of His love.

This year’s event was blessed with sunshine, smiles, and wagging tails! Eighteen dogs—big and small—lined up for blessings, each receiving a gentle prayer and a sprinkle of holy water. Remarkably, there were *no fights, no bites, and no accidents*—only joy, laughter, and gratitude filling the day.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Dwight and Marica for coordinating the event and gathering donations to provide treats for all the dogs and cider and donuts for their human guardians.

Their care and organization made the afternoon a wonderful success. In the true spirit of St. Francis, a generous donation was also made to the County Animal Shelter, with all proceeds from the event going directly to support the shelter’s ongoing care for abandoned and rescued animals.

The Blessing of the Pets reminds us that all creations praise the Lord and that our faithful companions are precious gifts from Him. It was, indeed, a *beautiful day to celebrate the Lord’s gift to us from the beginning*



Wigilia: A Beloved Polish Christmas Eve Tradition

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia! — that’s how we say “*Merry Christmas*” in Polish. Among Polish families everywhere, no celebration is more cherished than Wigilia, the traditional Christmas Eve dinner. It is a time filled with reverence, warmth, and deep affection, when loved ones gather to share not only a meal, but also faith, family, and hope.

In the days leading up to Christmas Eve, families prepare their favorite dishes and decorate their homes in joyful anticipation. The celebration begins at the sight of the first star in the eastern sky—known as the *Gwiazdka*—a reminder of the Star of Bethlehem that led the shepherds and Magi to the newborn Christ.

A thin layer of hay beneath the white tablecloth recalls the humble manger in which the Savior was born. Before the meal, each person breaks and shares the Oplatek, the traditional Christmas wafer imprinted with images of the Holy Family and angels. This touching exchange of good wishes often brings tears of joy and gratitude as families bless one another with words of love, health, and peace.



The Wigilia meal is always meatless—a custom born from early Church fasting practices and lovingly preserved through the centuries. The menu may include mushroom soup, pierogi, pickled herring, fried fish, sauerkraut with beans, boiled potatoes, and sweet treats such as dried fruit compote, pastries, nuts, and candies.

A candle glows in the window as a sign of welcome, and an extra place is set at the table for an unexpected guest, reminding all that “*A guest in the home is God in the home.*”

After dinner, families lift their voices in song, sharing the beauty of Polish Christmas carols—koledy—as children eagerly await the exchange of gifts. Later that night, many attend Pasterka, the traditional “Shepherds’ Mass,” celebrating the mystery of God made flesh and the peace that descends upon the world that holy night.

The celebration of Christmas continues through the Feast of the Epiphany, when priests bless homes and inscribe the initials of the Three Kings—**K+M+B**—above doorways as a sign of protection and faith. The season concludes on Candlemas Day, February 2, when candles are blessed to bring light and comfort throughout the year. As we prepare to celebrate once again, may the spirit of Wigilia fill our hearts with peace and unity. May our homes be places of welcome, our tables symbols of love, and our hearts open to the Christ Child who comes to dwell among us.

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

LBLSE	_____
PRNESSTE	_____
SOCRLA	_____
IHDNGTIM	_____
NWSO	_____
ORLAIG	_____
AYBB	_____
PESSHRHDE	_____
EACEP	_____
PHEES	_____
REMAGNA	_____
SINGK	_____
OLDG	_____
TEHLEMBHE	_____
HYA	_____
CTISHR	_____



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

Expectation	Prophecy	Longing	star
Emmanuel	Candles	liturgy	rose
Wreath	Hope	Messiah	
Messiah	angel		

Classic Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- ½ cup softened butter
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
-
- 1 Tbsp vanilla extract
- 1½ cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Cream peanut butter, butter, and both sugar until smooth.



3. Add egg and vanilla; mix well.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually blend into wet mixture.
5. Scoop 1-inch dough balls, roll in sugar if desired, and place on sheets.
6. Flatten with a fork to make a crisscross pattern.

7. Bake 8–9 minutes. Cool slightly on the pan, then transfer to a wire rack.

Walnut Snowball Cookies

- 1 cup all-purpose or cake flour
- 1½ cups finely chopped walnuts
- 2 Tbsp granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 stick (113 g) unsalted butter, room temperature
- Pinch of salt
- About 1 cup powdered sugar, for coating

1. In a large bowl, mix flour, walnuts, sugar, and salt. Add vanilla and butter pieces; combine with your hands until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
2. Chill dough for at least 30 minutes or overnight.
3. Preheat oven to 300°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
4. Shape dough into walnut-sized balls and place 1 inch apart on the sheet.
5. Bake 35 minutes or until lightly golden.
6. While warm, roll cookies in powdered sugar. Cool on a rack, then roll or dust again once fully cooled.





Polish National Alliance Council 307
Formerly PNU - District 7

Children's Christmas Bowling Party

Sunday, December 7, 2025

5 Star Lanes

2666 Metro Parkway

Sterling Hts, MI, 48310

On 16 Mile between Ryan & Dequindre Rds

Time: Bowling Check In 3:30 p.m.

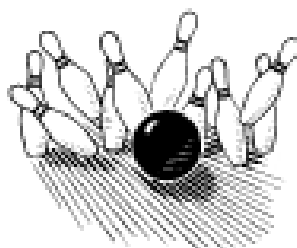
Bowling 4-6 pm

Bumpers available for younger bowlers

Cost: Children FREE

Adults & Non-Bowlers: \$5.00 or a box of granola or protein bars

Party Includes: 2 Hours of Bowling, Shoe Rental, 2 Slices Pizza, and Pop



Sign Up by Nov. 30, 2025

Suzanne Sniezek 313-720-4339

Sharon Stachurski 586-295-8087

Kathy Chockley 586-709-6801

*Collecting Granola & Protein Bars for
Hamtramck Public School Unhoused Students*

November



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Day Light Savings 2 ENDS Holy Mass 10:00 am Coffee and Sunday School	Commemoration of All Souls 3	4	5	6	7	Solemnity of All Saints' 7:00 pm 1
Youth Readings 9 Holy Mass 10:00 am Coffee and Sunday School	Father Jim leaves for Scranton. 10	Veterans Day Pray for Chesterfield Residents	11	12	Father Jim returns 14	15
Holy Mass 10:00 am Coffee and Sunday School	16	17	18	19	Youth Night!! Solemnity: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 21	22
Solemnity of Christ 23 the King Holy Mass 10:00 am	24	25	26	Thanksgiving Day	28	29
Advent Holy Mass 10:00 am Coffee and Sunday School	30 Feast of St. Andrew	31				

December



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 ✠	6
7 Holy Mass 10:00 am Coffee and Sunday School	8 Solemnity of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9	10	11	12 ✠	13
14 Holy Mass 10:00 am Coffee and Sunday School	15	16	17	18	19 ✠	20
Holy Mass 10:00 am Coffee and Sunday School	22 Feast of St. Thomas	23	24 ✠	25 Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord 11:30 pm Music Midnight Mass 10:00 am Mass	26 Feast of St. Stephen Youth Night!! ✠	27 Feast of St. John
28 Solemnity of Humble Shepherds Holy Mass 10:00 am Coffee and Sunday School	29	30	31			

Ordinary 23C

“Counting the Cost!”

Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9-10, 12-17, Luke 14:25-33



The legendary NFL player Kellen Winslow, often hailed as the greatest tight ends in football history, left us more than highlights and statistics—he left us an example of what dedication looks like. Winslow’s career was forged not only by talent, but by discipline, sacrifice, and relentless work. His performance in the 1982 playoff game between the San Diego Chargers and the Miami Dolphins has become iconic. Battling exhaustion, dehydration, and even needing to be carried off the field, Winslow kept returning to play. He gave everything he had for his team. *(Full disclosure Kellon Sr. was my roommate at Harvard University)*

That level of commitment teaches us something vital: greatness always comes with a cost. Whether athlete, musician, doctor, or disciple, no one reaches excellence without discipline and sacrifice. You cannot achieve something remarkable without paying the price.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus presents us with the same truth. To follow Him is no casual choice. It demands more than words—it demands total commitment. Just as champions pour out their lives for victory, so must we give our lives completely to Christ, taking up the cross and following Him.

The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, reminds us that we cannot rely on our own strength to understand God’s will. Written for Jewish believers in Alexandria a century before Christ, it speaks to those tempted to abandon their faith for cultural comfort. The author insists that only through God’s Spirit can we discern the right path. That same Spirit is given to us through the Sacraments, nourished by Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and sustained by prayer. God’s wisdom becomes our compass, calling us to live differently, to choose differently, and to count the cost with courage.

The second reading from Paul’s letter to Philemon shows us what this looks like in practice. Paul, writing from prison, meets Onesimus, a runaway slave who becomes a Christian under Paul’s guidance. Paul could have kept Onesimus as a helper, but instead he sends him back to Philemon, asking that he be received not as a slave but as a brother in Christ. This decision required sacrifice from all three: Paul gave up a beloved companion, Onesimus risked returning, and Philemon was

asked to forgive and accept him as an equal. This is the cost of discipleship, — relationships transformed by courage, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Then we hear Jesus in the Gospel. He speaks plainly: “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.” These are strong words. Jesus does not ask us to despise our families, but He insists that nothing—not even the dearest human bonds, can come before Him. He illustrates this with two images: a builder calculating the cost before starting construction and a king weighing his strength before battle. In the same way, we must be honest about the cost of following Christ. It is not a hobby or a spare-time activity. It is a wholehearted surrender.

Yet, here is the good news: we do not bear this cost alone. Christ fills us with His Spirit, strengthens us with His grace, and surrounds us with His Church. He gives us His Word, His Sacraments, and His very presence in the Eucharist. What seems impossible becomes possible in Him.

For us, this may mean letting go of comforts or habits that keep us from God. It may mean forgiving someone who has hurt us, making worship and prayer a true priority, or giving of our time and treasure in ways that stretch us. But we do not walk this road by ourselves. We walk together in community, in prayer, in fellowship, in faith.

The cost is real, but so is the reward. To follow Christ is to build on the foundation of God’s love, to draw strength from His Spirit, and to trust that every sacrifice will be transformed into joy and eternal life.

Let us take up this challenge. Let us embrace the discipline, sacrifice, and joy of discipleship. And let us do it together strengthened by God’s wisdom, guided by His Spirit, and united in His love.

This is our call. This is our hope. This is what it means to follow Christ:
Counting the Cost.



SERMON: Solemnity of Brotherly Love

“Go and Do Likewise”

Jeremiah 31:31-34, I John 4:17 – 21, Luke 10:25-37

How hard it can be just to say hello. We all know the scene: you pass a neighbor and suddenly both of you turn into professional weather reporters. “Nice day!”

“Yep, sunshine again!” Then you retreat to your homes as if you have just completed the most exhausting social task of the week.



For all our phones, texts, and social media, face-to-face connection remains one of the hardest things we do. Yet today’s readings remind us that connection—what Scripture calls brotherly love—is at the very heart of our faith.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God makes one of the most profound promises in all of Scripture: *“I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel... I will write my law in their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

Notice what God does. He moves faith from scrolls and stone tablets into our very being—etched not on paper but on our hearts. When we truly love someone, we don’t need a manual to remind us how to care for them. Love itself becomes the guide. In the same way, God’s covenant inscribed in our hearts is meant to guide every choice and every encounter.

And the fruit of this covenant? Forgiveness. God says: *“I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”* Brotherly love begins with this divine reset. God forgives us not so we can cling to grudges, but so we can extend mercy to others.

St. John carries this promise forward when he writes, *“Perfect love casts out fear.”*

We know fear well. Fear keeps us silent when a kind word could help. Fear keeps us from stepping into another’s struggles. Fear whispers: “Stay in your lane. Don’t get involved.” But John insists that love leaves no room for fear. God’s love has gone before us—He loved us first, so we can love without hesitation.

John then becomes painfully clear: *“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates his brother, he is a liar.”* It is easy to sing hymns and speak of loving God. But if we harbor bitterness toward our neighbor or indifference toward the lonely and

forgotten, then our love is incomplete. To love God, whom we cannot see, we must love our brothers and sisters, whom we can see.

The Gospel makes this concrete. When asked, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan.

We know it well: a man beaten and left for dead; two religious leaders pass by without helping. Then comes the Samaritan—an outsider, despised by many. He sees, he stops, he binds wounds, he carries, he pays. He risks himself for the sake of another.

“Who was the neighbor?” Jesus asks. The answer is unmistakable: “The one who showed mercy.” And then the command follows: *“Go and do likewise.”*

Neighbors are not defined by proximity, similarity, or convenience. Neighbor is defined by compassion.

Here is the beauty: mercy multiplies. One act of kindness ripples farther than we can imagine. A kind word lifts a spirit. A small gesture of generosity inspires another. The Samaritan never knew his story would be told two thousand years later in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Yet here we are, still challenged by it. That is the power of paying it forward.

So, what might “going and doing likewise” look like for us? It could be offering help to a coworker. Listening patiently to the lonely. Forgive someone who has hurt us. And sometimes, it begins simply with saying hello.

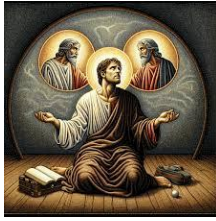
This week, I challenge each of you to greet three people—outside your usual circle. A neighbor you rarely talk to. A cashier at the grocery store. Someone sitting alone at coffee hour. That small hello may mean more than you realize.

Because brotherly love doesn’t begin with grand gestures. It begins with presence—with seeing another person as a child of God. That “hello” could be the oil and wine that begins to heal a hidden wound.

The Word of God today is clear: God has written His covenant of love in our hearts. Perfect love drives out fear. And Jesus commands us to embody mercy in real, practical ways.

Let us practice brotherly love not only in words but in actions. Let us pay it forward—one act of kindness, one hello, one neighbor at a time.

In the end, eternal life is not found in avoiding others but in embracing them with the love of Christ. So, go and do likewise.



SERMON: Ordinary 25C

“You Cannot Serve Two Masters.”

Amos 8:4-7, I Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13

Have you ever noticed how much power money has over us? It whispers in our ear at night when the bills pile up. It shouts when we see what others have and feel envy rising in our hearts. It seduces us with promises that if we only had “just a little more,” we would finally be secure and happy.

Money is powerful. It stirs up emotions of fear, stress, envy, pride, and desire. And it can do damage. Studies show that financial stress is the leading cause of divorce in America—41% of divorced couples say money disagreements tore their marriage apart. Money doesn’t just affect our wallets; it affects our marriages, our families, our peace of mind, and even our faith.

This is why Jesus speaks so often about money. In fact, He teaches about money and possessions more than almost any other topic—second only to love. Because Jesus knows how money competes for our hearts. It tries to become our master.

The Scriptures we hear this Sunday address this very issue. In the first reading, the prophet Amos thunders against a society that worshiped profit over people. The wealthy grew richer by cheating the poor, while the priests looked the other way. Amos declared that such arrogance would not stand. God’s covenant was built on compassion, honesty, and care for the vulnerable—not greed and corruption.

In the second reading, Paul urges Timothy to remember that God’s salvation is for all people, not just for one group. That is why Paul calls the community to pray even for rulers, leaders, and yes, those they disagree with. God’s love is bigger than our preferences, and His mercy stretches further than our boundaries.

And then comes the Gospel—the parable of the dishonest steward. First, the story is confusing. Did Jesus really praise a crooked businessman? Even Saint Augustine admitted, “I can’t believe this story came from the lips of our Lord.” But Jesus wasn’t praising dishonesty. He was pointing out the steward’s urgency. When the

steward learned he was about to lose his job, he acted quickly, decisively, and creatively to prepare for the future. Wrong methods, yes—but right urgency.

And so, Jesus asks us: Do we live with that same urgency when it comes to our souls? We often lose sleep over bills, savings, and financial plans. But do we lose sleep over eternity? The steward scrambled to prepare for a short earthly future. Jesus calls us to scramble with the same urgency for our eternal future.

That is why He speaks the hard truth: *“You cannot serve two masters. You cannot serve God and money.”* We like to think we can juggle both, but Jesus is clear—we can’t. Money is not neutral. It demands our loyalty. It tries to claim our hearts. But the good news is this: money does not have to be our master. Jesus teaches us that money is only a tool. We are not owners; we are stewards. Everything we have—our money, our time, our talents, even our health—is entrusted to us by God. And one day, we will give an account of how we used it.

So here is a spiritual challenge—your penance for this week: each day, thank God for what you already have. Not for what you wish you had, but for what He has already placed in your hands. Gratitude loosens money’s grip and strengthens God’s hold on our lives.

Because in the end, the only wealth you will carry into eternity is love—love for God and love for neighbor. Everything else stays behind.

Brothers and sisters, you cannot serve two masters. Choose wisely whom you will serve.

Reflection

- Where has money, possessions, or desire taken too much space in my heart?
- Do I show the same urgency for my soul as I do for my financial future?
- How can I live gratitude each day this week?

Lord, You are my true Master. Teach me to be faithful with what You have entrusted to me. Free me from the grip of money and fill my heart with gratitude. May I use all I have for Your glory and for the good of others. Amen.



Reflection: Ordinary 26C

In this issue of *The March*, I share a reflection on today's readings as we were honored to have Bishop Paul Sobiechowski share the Sacrament of the Word of God. My prayer is simple: may we be inspired to serve others, may we be lights for Christ, and may we bring others to the table of the Lord! These words are more than a thought to carry away; they are a call to action. They invite us to see faith not as something private, but as something that shapes how we live with and for one another.

The prophet Amos delivers a difficult message that still rings true today. He speaks to people who are comfortable and secure, enjoying their luxuries while ignoring the suffering around them. Amos calls out those who stretch themselves on couches and feast on fine foods, while their brothers and sisters endure hardship and sorrow. His warning is clear: God does not ignore indifference. Exile and ruin would follow because the wealthy had forgotten their responsibility to care for the "ruin of Joseph." What Amos asks is the same question we must ask today: how can we claim to be family in faith if we fail to notice the struggles of those beside us?

Saint Paul echoes this theme in his letter to Timothy. Paul, like a spiritual father, encourages the young bishop to keep his heart rooted in righteousness, faith, patience, and gentleness. He reminds him that the love of money is the root of many evils. Money itself is not evil, but when it takes over our hearts, it distracts us from love, from service, from God. Paul's wisdom reminds us that what matters most is not what we own but how we live, how we share, and how we remain faithful to Christ who calls us to witness in word and deed.

Then Jesus tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Think of it like a play in two acts. In the first act, the rich man lives in comfort, dressed in finery, eating lavish meals. At his very doorstep lies Lazarus, whose name means "God is my help." Poor, sick, and hungry, Lazarus waits for scraps while even dogs come to lick his sores. The rich man sees him every day—and does nothing. In the second act, the scene is reversed. Lazarus is carried to Abraham's side in eternal comfort, while the rich man suffers torment. The point is not that the rich man was wealthy, but that he was indifferent. He never lifted a finger to help, never acknowledged Lazarus as a brother. His sin was omission: the refusal to love when love was required.

That is where the Gospel strikes us. It is easy to think of the rich man as someone else, but Jesus wants us to look at our own lives. Who are the Lazaruses at our gates? They may not be begging for food, but they may be hungering for kindness, dignity, friendship, or hope. The Gospel is clear: to ignore is to sin. To notice and to act is to love as Christ commands.

So where does this leave us? These readings are not meant to condemn us, but to wake us up. They remind us that our blessings, whether material, spiritual, or relational—are not ours to hoard but ours to share. They remind us that the Church must always be a place where the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten find welcome, dignity, and compassion.

My friends, this is what it means to be light for Christ. This is what it means to invite others to the table of the Lord. When we open our eyes, when we serve with love, when we extend ourselves in generosity, we become a living reflection of the God who sustains the widow and the orphan and who never forgets the poor.

So let us take this reflection to heart. Let us ask ourselves: who is at my gate, and how can I respond? Let us choose service over indifference, compassion over comfort, and mercy over blindness. And let us do it together, as a parish family, so that others will be drawn not just to us, but to Christ Himself.

May we be inspired to serve, may we shine as lights for Christ, and may we bring many to the table of the Lord.

SERMON: Ordinary 27C

“Increase Our Faith”

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14, Luke 17:5-10



Intentions: John Kotelnicki offered by Pat Kotelnicki

Have you ever noticed how children can sometimes teach us more about faith than we teach them? I once heard a story about a village facing a terrible drought. The whole town decided to gather and pray for rain. They all came together, but only one little boy brought an umbrella. That is faith. Everyone else was hoping for rain; the boy expected it.

Our readings this Sunday invite us to reflect on faith—not just in theory, but in practice, in daily life, and in our relationship with God. And the words of the apostles in the Gospel, “*Increase our faith!*” echo in our hearts as well. Because if

we are honest, many of us have days when our faith feels more like a flickering candle than a blazing torch.

The prophet Habakkuk lived in a time of despair. Violence, injustice, and the looming threat of Babylon weighed heavily on his heart. He cried out to God, *“How long, Lord, must I call for help and you do not listen?”*

We know that prayer. We prayed for it ourselves when the diagnosis came back bad, when bills overwhelmed us, or when evil seemed to triumph. Habakkuk’s complaint is our complaint. Yet God’s response is profound: *“The just shall live by faith.”*

Faith, then, is not having all the answers or controlling outcomes. It is the stubborn trust that God sees, God knows, and God will act—even when the road ahead is dark. Faith is not wishful thinking; it is choosing to keep walking, confident that God is with us.

In the second reading, Paul (or one close to him) writes to a discouraged Timothy. His mentor was in prison, the community was lukewarm, and the weight of leadership felt heavy. Paul’s message is simple but powerful: *“Fan into flame the gift of God.”*

Faith is like a fire. Left alone, it cools and fades. But tended daily, with prayer, Scripture, Eucharist, and perseverance, it grows bright and strong. Paul reminds Timothy that faith is not a timid spirit but one of *“power, love, and self-control.”* Faith is not only what we believe, it is how we live: with courage when we feel fear, with love when others grow indifferent, and with discipline when the world calls us to compromise.

And Paul even has a touch of humor: “Don’t let your faith get cold! Stir it up, keep it burning!” It is the same reminder we need when we feel lukewarm. Faith does not grow by waiting for some magical increase to fall from the sky. It grows when we nurture what God has already planted within us.

Finally, in the Gospel, the apostles cry out, *“Increase our faith!”* And Jesus surprises them. He says faith does not work like a bank account, where you just add more. Even faith the size of a mustard seed can do impossible things. With just that much, a mulberry tree can be uprooted and cast into the sea.

God has always loved to work with small things—Gideon’s 300 men against thousands, David’s sling and stone, Mary’s “yes.” Even our small faith, offered honestly, is enough for God to do great things.

Jesus adds a final teaching: faith is not about rewards or recognition. Like servants, we are called to do what God places before us—forgive, serve, pray, persevere—because it is who we are as disciples. God owes us nothing. We owe Him everything.

So, what do we do with this? Habakkuk teaches us to trust in darkness. Paul urges us to fan our faith into flame. Jesus assures us that even the smallest seed of faith, lived out in love and service, is enough.

Faith is not always spectacular. Often it is ordinary: praying with a grieving friend, forgiving someone who hurt us, showing up for Mass when it would be easier to stay home, lending a hand to a neighbor in need. These small acts, rooted in trust in God, change the world.

And here is the good news: God does not demand perfect, flawless faith. He asks us to use the little we have and keep tending it like a flame. As we do, He makes it grow.

So, we pray with the apostles: *“Increase our faith, Lord.”* Increase our trust when we are discouraged, our courage when we are afraid, our perseverance when we are weary, and our love when our hearts grow cold. And perhaps, the next time we pray for rain, we will be the ones who arrive with an umbrella.



Eulogy for Louise Sardy DeCiantis

Born December 13, 1939 – Entered Eternal Life October 5, 2025

My dear friends in Christ,

When I think of Louise, one image immediately comes to mind — her beautiful blue eyes. They were not simply striking in color; they were windows to her soul. When you looked into Louise’s eyes, you could see straight into the heart of a woman whose life was filled with love, faith, and compassion. Those eyes revealed everything that words could not — warmth, gentleness, gratitude, and that unmistakable spark of kindness that drew people near. Through them, we caught a glimpse of the divine love that guided her life.



Louise’s eyes could comfort without words. They could encourage without speaking. They saw beauty where others might overlook it, and they reflected the depth of her care for others. When she looked at you, it was as if you were the only person in the room — fully seen, fully loved. That gift was her way of living out the Gospel, of seeing Christ in others and letting them see Christ in her.

Born in Detroit on December 13, 1939, to Mabarak and Elizabeth Sardy, Louise was the youngest of seven, the one her siblings adored and protected. Raised in a home filled with faith, laughter, and the strong traditions of her Lebanese heritage, she learned early what it meant to love deeply and to serve generously. Her parents instilled in her a profound Catholic faith — one that would sustain her throughout her entire life.

After graduating from St. Augustine High School, Louise worked at the Cedars of Lebanon in Detroit, where she made lifelong friendships and gathered stories that she loved to tell. Later, she found her professional calling in real estate, where for over 40 years she helped families find not just houses, but homes. It was never about the sale — it was about the people. Her success came from her sincerity, and her ability to see the good in everyone she met.

Faith was the quiet rhythm of her life. Whether at Mass, praying at home, or traveling, Louise carried her relationship with God everywhere she went. She was steadfast, grateful, and grounded in prayer. Her life was a living testimony that faith is not something we say, it is something we see — often in the eyes of those who love as Christ loved.

Today, we give thanks for a woman whose eyes reflected heaven — eyes that taught us to see goodness, to forgive freely, to cherish family, and to trust in God’s promises. Though those eyes have now closed in rest, they behold the glory of God she longed for all her life.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen.



SERMON: Solemnity of the Christian Family

“Obey”

If there’s one word that makes children squirm, parents sigh, and perhaps even a few spouses exchange knowing glances, it’s the word *obey*. Yet in the eyes of faith, obedience is not about control or power—it is about



relationships. True obedience flows from trust, from love, and from the conviction that God's way is always the best way.

When we say to the Lord, "I choose Your way because I know You love me," we speak the language of holy obedience—the language that sustains families, parishes, and communities. Our readings this week beautifully illuminate what that looks like in real life.

In *Genesis*, God's first words to humanity are not commands of burden but invitations of purpose: "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth." Here, obedience begins as love in action. God calls His people to reflect His image—to nurture, to create, to bless. The Christian family is not just a household; it is a living reflection of God's own heart. Each act of kindness, cooperation, and forgiveness mirrors the Creator's love.

That same spirit of divine reflection is alive at All Saints Parish. Week after week, we see obedience lived out not as a rule but as a response—people serving, sharing, teaching, and worshiping together. It is a humble and joyful "yes" to God's will, right here among us.

Saint Paul, writing to the Ephesians, reminds us that obedience is part of the rhythm of Christian life. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord," he says—not to suppress, but to bless. This obedience is born of love and gratitude, not fear. And to parents he offers a mirror command: "Do not provoke your children to anger." His point is clear—obedience and authority alike must be exercised with gentleness, patience, and faith. Every parent, grandparent, or godparent teaches the Gospel most effectively not in words but in the daily example of love, forgiveness, and integrity.

Paul widens the lens even further, urging believers to serve one another faithfully in all things—at home, at work, and in the world—"as if for the Lord." Imagine the transformation if each task and conversation were done with that awareness—that Christ Himself stands beside us in all we do.

The Gospel offers a poignant glimpse into this kind of obedience. Mary and Joseph lose the young Jesus after the Passover in Jerusalem—a parent's worst nightmare. After three long, fearful days, they find Him in the Temple, calm and composed, speaking with the teachers. "Child, why have you treated us like this?" Mary cries, her heart torn between relief and frustration.

Jesus responds, “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” His words are not defiance but revelation. Obedience, for Jesus, means staying aligned with His Father’s will—even when that causes misunderstanding or pain. Mary and Joseph learn what every believer must learn: sometimes obedience means *letting go*.

Love often requires release. Many parents know this feeling when a child leaves for college, or when a loved one sets out on a new path. Obedience to God means trusting that His plan is unfolding, even when we cannot see the whole picture. It means aligning our will to His—not losing freedom but finding our truest purpose.

That is the invitation before us: to move toward the Father’s house, leaving behind smaller “homes” of fear, resentment, or comfort. God’s home is spacious filled with mercy, joy, and peace. And that’s precisely what we’re building together at All Saints Parish: a spiritual home where love reigns, faith grows, and obedience blossoms into blessing.

So let’s reclaim that word *obey*. Let’s make it beautiful again. To obey God is not to surrender—it is to say “yes” to love. When obedience is rooted in gratitude, the Father smiles, the Son walks beside us, and the Holy Spirit fills our homes and hearts with peace.

Let us, then, continue forward together as one joyful, grace-filled family of faith—loving, trusting, and obeying the Lord who leads us home.



SERMON: Ordinary 27C

“Call out to Him day and night!”

Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2, Luke 18:1-8

Today’s readings remind us that prayer isn’t meant to be occasional or half-hearted, it’s meant to be *persistent*. God doesn’t tire of hearing from us, but we sometimes tire of speaking to Him!

Let me begin with a light story. There was a ten-year-old girl named Emily who hadn’t done her math homework the night before a big test. The next day she guessed more than she calculated, and by evening she was nervous. As she knelt to say her prayers, she added, “And please, God... please make five times six equal forty-two!”



We smile, but that's how prayer often begins—hoping God will fix things the way we want. Yet prayer isn't about changing God's mind; it's about changing our hearts. It's about learning trust.

In the First Reading from *Exodus*, Moses stands on the hilltop while Israel battles the Amalekites. When his arms are raised, the Israelites prevail; when he lowers them, they falter. Eventually Aaron and Hur step in to hold up his weary arms until victory is won. What a beautiful picture of faith and community! Even Moses needed help.

That's what happens in our own parish when we pray for one another—when we name those in need, when we whisper a prayer for someone who's struggling, when we offer our intentions at Mass. We are holding up one another's arms in prayer. No one stands alone in the Body of Christ.

St. Paul tells Timothy to “remain faithful to what you have learned.” Faith isn't a feeling; it's a daily decision to keep believing when life is difficult. Paul reminds Timothy—and us—that Scripture, prayer, and perseverance go hand in hand. We are called to proclaim the Word whether it's convenient or not, to live our faith both in church and beyond it, and to pass it on with courage and love.

Then, in today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the parable of the persistent widow who keeps demanding justice from an unjust judge. She doesn't give up. Day after day she pleads her case until the judge finally relents—not because he's kind, but because he's worn down!

Jesus turns this story into a lesson for us: if even an uncaring judge can be moved by persistence, how much more will our loving Father respond to His children who pray to Him “day and night”? God is not indifferent or too busy for us. He knows our needs even before we speak them, but He invites us to keep praying—to keep trusting—because prayer shapes us into people of faith.

Persistent prayer doesn't mean nagging God; it means staying close to Him. It's the heartbeat of a living faith. When we pray, we're reminded that we are not alone, that God's mercy is near, and that His answers often arrive in His time, not ours.

Mary, the Mother of God, shows us what this looks like. She prayed in silence, trusted in suffering, and remained steadfast at the foot of the Cross. Her entire life was a living prayer of faith. Like her, we are invited to pray without ceasing—to turn every joy and every struggle into an offering of love.

So, if you've been praying for something and the answer hasn't come yet, don't give up. Keep showing up in prayer. Keep trusting that God is listening, even in the silence.

For our Father in heaven is merciful and near to all who call upon Him. His timing is perfect, His love unending, and His ear always open.

Whatever you're facing, whatever burdens you carry, keep your heart open, your faith steady, and your prayers constant. In every joy and every challenge, lift your voice to the One who never stops listening.

Call out to Him day and night! †



SERMON: Ordinary 30C

“The One Who Humbles Himself Will Be Exalted!”

Sirach 35:12-14,16-18 2, Timothy 4:6-8,16-18, Luke 18:9-14

Has frustration or doubt ever crept into your prayer life? Many of us know that feeling—when we pray and wonder if heaven is still listening. For two weeks now, our Sunday readings have centered on the power of prayer. Last week, we were reminded to persevere through the story of Moses, whose arms had to be held up by others so that Israel might win the battle. It was a vivid image of prayer sustained by community—of faith that refuses to quit.

This Sunday, the message takes a new turn: humility in prayer. Jesus ends the Gospel with a line that should echo in every heart, *“The one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

Our first reading, from the Book of Sirach, reminds us that *“The Lord is a God of justice who shows no favorites.”* Written centuries before Christ, this wisdom text teaches that God hears the cry of the poor, the widow, and the orphan—the voices the world tends to ignore. In our day, those cries come from people weighed down by illness, loneliness, rejection, or financial hardship. Yet Sirach assures us that the prayer of the humble “pierces the clouds.” God’s justice may not always move on our timetable, but it never fails. His mercy always reaches those who pray with sincere hearts.

Saint Paul understood this truth deeply. In our second reading, he writes from prison, knowing that his earthly journey is nearly complete. “I am already being poured out like a libation,” he says—a life spent in love and service. Abandoned by many friends, Paul still finds strength in the Lord who never leaves him. His humility becomes his strength, and his surrender becomes victory: *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

Then comes the parable that brings it all together—the Pharisee and the tax collector. Two men enter the temple to pray, but only one goes home justified. The Pharisee stands tall and lists his virtues, thanking God that he’s not like others. His prayer, Jesus says, is spoken “to himself.” It never reaches God because pride closes the door. The tax collector, meanwhile, can barely lift his eyes. He beats his chest and whispers, “O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” In that humble plea, heaven opens.

This story is more than ancient history—it’s a mirror for our own lives. Do we come before God standing tall in our achievements, or kneeling low in our need? True humility isn’t weakness; it’s honesty before God. The proud boast of what they’ve done; the humble rejoice in what God is doing.

And that humility is the heartbeat of outreach. Our parish is called to be a community where broken hearts are welcomed, where the lonely find friendship, and where those who feel far from God are reminded that they are already loved. Many around us long for hope, but they need someone to invite them, to say, “Come and see.” When we live with humility—serving, listening, and praying for others—we open the door for God’s grace to work through us.

Let us take Christ’s words to heart: *“The one who humbles himself will be exalted.”* When we bow low in prayer, God lifts us high in grace. When our parish humbles itself before the Lord—acknowledging our dependence on Him and welcoming all people—we become a living witness of His mercy.

So, let’s live this message together. Let us pray with humble hearts. Let us serve with joyful hands. Let us invite others to share in the love that exalts the lowly and restores the weary. For when our parish kneels before God, the world will see it rise—and through us, the light of Christ will shine all the brighter.



Eulogy for Al Micka shared at Holy Mother of Sorrochurch, Dupount, PA



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We come together today with hearts that hold both sorrow and gratitude. Sorrow, because we have lost a beloved husband, father, and friend; gratitude, because God blessed us with the gift of knowing and loving Al Micka. As we gather to celebrate his life and commend his soul to God, we take comfort in the promise of our Savior: *“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, even though he die, will live.”*

Like Saint Paul, Al could say, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* His life was a testimony poured out in love for God, family, and Church. Al’s devotion to his wife Donna was visible in every gesture—in the flowers he brought, the meals they shared, and the joy of simply being together. Their marriage was a living example of faithfulness and grace, a reflection of God’s enduring love.

His children, David and Susan, were the pride of his life. David recalls travels with his father—to the Rose Bowl, the Big House, and Ireland—not just as trips, but as cherished pilgrimages between father and son. Susan was, as David often teased, “the apple of his eye.” Together, they were Al’s greatest blessings and his legacy.

Al’s life was defined by service. A veteran, entrepreneur, and leader, he poured his energy into everything he did. Yet his greatest work was for the Polish National Catholic Church. As President of the National United Choirs, he didn’t just direct singers—he inspired worshippers. His leadership elevated voices and hearts alike, reminding us that “when you sing for God, you pray twice.”

He was a man of sayings—words that captured his approach to life: “Go 10% more and go first class.” Al lived by that motto, giving his best in every act of love, service, and faith. And then there was his famous line, “We’re taking your boy and bringing you back a man”—spoken with pride and sincerity, reflecting his belief in the transformative power of faith and hard work.

Everyone knew that unmistakable grin—a mix of mischief and kindness. Beneath it was a generous heart ready to serve and a deep humility that never sought recognition. He could speak plainly, even gruffly at times, but it came from a heart

overflowing with compassion. Al's strength was always rooted in faith, friendship, and a genuine love for people.

Like the humble tax collector in Jesus' parable, Al prayed with sincerity and lived with humility. He didn't seek attention; he sought to make a difference. He welcomed others, forgave freely, and reminded us that God's grace is always greater than our flaws.

Now, Al joins those who have gone before him—Jack, Ray, Bobby, Ed, Bishop Gnat, and many others—forming a heavenly choir where the songs of faith never cease. And if we listen closely, we might hear that familiar voice urging us once again, “Go 10% more and go first class.”

Let us honor his memory by living as he did—with courage, generosity, laughter, and faith. Then one day, we too will meet him again, standing before the Lord, that warm grin on his face, ready to say, “Welcome home... we're taking your soul and bringing you back a saint.”

May his memory be eternal. Amen



SERMON: Ordinary 31C

Wisdom 11:22-12:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2, Luke 19:1-10

“Today Salvation Has Come to This House!”

There are moments when God's voice breaks through the noise—moments that stop us in our tracks and lift our eyes toward heaven. Sometimes it happens in prayer, sometimes in the quiet reading of Scripture, and sometimes in the stillness of the heart. These moments are never coincidences; they are divine invitations—Christ Himself saying to us, “Come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.”

This is the heart of the Gospel story of Zacchaeus—a story not only about a man who climbed a tree, but about every soul who dares to seek Jesus and is transformed when He looks back with love. Before we climb that sycamore tree with Zacchaeus, we must understand the foundation upon which this encounter rests: the boundless mercy of God.

The Book of Wisdom opens today's readings with an image of a Creator whose power is revealed not in destruction, but in compassion. The author asks: Why does God not simply destroy those who do evil? The answer is both humbling and awe-inspiring—because God loves them. God loves us all. He sustains our very being not because we deserve it, but because He wills our redemption. “You overlook people's sins so that they may repent,” the writer declares. Each heartbeat, then, is an act of divine patience. Each breath is a chance to return home to Him.

The prophet Jeremiah echoes this truth in the Lord's promise: “I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.” God's justice and mercy are not opposites; mercy is the perfection of His justice. He corrects not to condemn, but to restore. This is the God we worship—a God who never gives up on His children and calls us to do likewise: to forgive as we have been forgiven, to show mercy instead of anger, to lift others as we ourselves have been lifted by grace.

Saint Paul, writing to the Thessalonians, reminds the early Christians that faith is not passive. Some of them believed the Lord had already returned and stopped working, waiting idly for a miraculous sign. Paul gently corrects them: “We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His call.” True faith is not a waiting game—it is a way of life. The coming of the Lord is not only a future hope; it happens whenever love conquers fear, forgiveness overcomes bitterness, and Christ becomes visible through us.

Then we turn to Jericho. The road is crowded, noisy, and full of anticipation. Among the throng stands Zacchaeus, the wealthy chief tax collector—despised, isolated, yet inwardly restless. He had everything money could buy, but something was missing. In his heart, a spark of longing ignited: he wanted to see Jesus. When the crowd blocked his view, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree. Imagine it—a respected man of influence climbing a tree like a child! But when the heart longs for God, pride yields to pursuit.

And there, amid the leaves, grace found him. Jesus stopped, looked up, and said, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” With that one sentence, everything changed. Zacchaeus descended not only from a tree, but from a life of selfishness and sin. The murmuring crowd could see only his past; Jesus saw his potential. Zacchaeus responded with joy and generosity: “Half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone, I will repay it fourfold.” In that moment, mercy became mission. Jesus declared, “Today, salvation has come to this house.”

So, we must ask ourselves: what if Jesus said, “I must stay at your house today”? Would we welcome Him with open arms—or hesitate, thinking our lives are not ready? The truth is, He already stands at the door. Through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist, Christ has made His home within us. Yet He still calls us to open our hearts wider—to forgive, to heal, to pray again, to return to love. God is not seeking perfection; He seeks permission—permission to love us, forgive us, and transform us.

Here at All Saints Parish, the Lord continues to say, “Today, I must stay at your house.” This church is not merely a building—it is a home where Christ walks among us and calls each of us by name. To our young people: climb the tree of faith—come see Jesus for yourself. To our families: let your homes be places of peace and prayer. To those who have been away: come home. Christ is still calling.

Our parish is the sycamore tree of our community—a place where the curious can encounter Christ, where the lost can be found, and where grace can dwell. If you have been searching for a place to belong, where faith is alive and forgiveness real, come and join us. Here, you will find Christ.

The story of Zacchaeus is not ancient history—it is a living invitation. Each of us stands somewhere on that road to Jericho, facing our own crowds of distraction and doubt. Yet Christ still looks up and says, “Come down quickly.” Salvation begins not tomorrow, but today—whenever we open the door and let Him in.

May our hearts, our homes, and our parish always echo His words:

“Today, salvation has come to this house.”



Bishop Thaddeus F. Zielinski: A Legacy of Faith, Leadership, and Lasting Influence



Tadeusz “Thaddeus” F. Zielinski (1916–1990) was a distinguished bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC), remembered for his pioneering leadership and his profound impact on generations of clergy and laity alike. Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to Francis and Mary Kompinski Zielinski, he was nurtured in the strong faith and values of the Polish-American community. Educated locally and later at Savonarola Seminary in Scranton, Zielinski was ordained to the priesthood on November 3, 1927. His early ministry included service in Southington, Connecticut; Frackville; and Dickson City, Pennsylvania, where his pastoral care and devotion were quickly recognized.

On September 2, 1954, he was consecrated a bishop in Buffalo, New York, by Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski, assisted by Bishops Joseph Lesniak, Joseph Soltysiak, and John Misiaszek, with participation from Archbishop Andrew Rinkel of the Dutch Old Catholic Church and Bishop Lau. Fifteen years later, in 1969, Bishop Zielinski became the first American-born bishop to be elected Prime Bishop of the PNCC—the first to lead the Church as both a son of the United States and of its founding generation of faithful. He served until his retirement in 1978, guiding the Church through a period of profound growth and renewal.

During his tenure, Bishop Zielinski was instrumental in expanding the use of English in the liturgy, hymnody, and catechesis—ensuring that the message of faith would reach future generations while maintaining reverence for the Church’s Polish roots. His leadership reflected both intellectual depth and deep pastoral sensitivity, and his writings and sermons revealed a love for the faith grounded in history and service.

On a personal note, Bishop Zielinski’s warmth and wisdom left an indelible impression on my own life. He frequently visited my parents and grandparents, sharing hours of stories and lessons about the history of the PNCC, St. Adalbert’s Parish, Bishop Hodur, and Spojnia Farm. Even while my father served in the U.S. Navy in San Diego, Bishop Zielinski wrote faithfully, discussing the arduous but inspired work of translating the Church’s hymns into English. He could captivate a room like no one else—with respect, presence, and an impeccable dignity that radiated both holiness and humanity. In every way, he embodied the very best of the Polish National Catholic Church—its faith, heritage, and mission to serve God and His people with excellence.

Summer Sounds at the Gazebo — Your Thoughts Needed!

There's something magical about music under the open sky—where melodies drift through the evening air and families gather to enjoy the simple beauty of summer. What do you think of this idea? Father Jim is exploring the possibility of *All Saints Parish* hosting a new seasonal tradition: “Summer Sounds at the Gazebo.” Each concert would feature a blend of local musicians, parish talent, and community guests performing a variety of genres—from classical and choral to folk and contemporary favorites. The goal is to create a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere that celebrates the gift of music, community, and faith-filled joy. Picture it: a warm evening, good company, and beautiful music as the sun sets behind our parish grounds.



1. **Would you like to see this event(s) happen?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. **Would you consider performing, helping to plan, or volunteering?**

If there's enough interest, we'll hold a brief Zoom meeting before December 21st to discuss next steps.

Let Father Jim know your thoughts — your feedback will help decide if we move forward with this exciting new summer tradition!



Let the Light of Jesus Shine
an afternoon tea...
Sponsored by the All Saints Altar Society

Join us for a relaxing afternoon to help you better celebrate the Christmas season. Bring your friends and enjoy an inspiring program, tea, scones, and a light luncheon.

Place: All Saints Parish
5555 Seventeen Mile (between Mound & Ryan)
Sterling Heights, Michigan

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025
Time: Doors Open 12:30 p.m.
Tea Begins 1:00 p.m.

Donation: \$15.00 Per Person
Make checks payable to:
All Saints Altar Society



For tickets contact: Carol 586/306-7704

Tickets must be purchased no later than
November 29, 2025

*No tickets will be sold at the door.