



**HOLY TRINITY  
CATHEDRAL  
PARISH  
POLISH NATIONAL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
166 Pearl Street  
Manchester,  
New Hampshire 03104**

<http://www.holytrinitypncc.org/>

Office Phone 603-668-5087

Rectory Phone 603-622-4524

Hall/Kitchen Phone 603-622-6899

**Pastor - Bishop Paul Sobiechowski**

revpauls@yahoo.com

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

(unless otherwise announced)

**Sunday :** Holy Mass ..... 9:00 AM ..... In the English language

**Daily :** Morning Prayer ... 8:45 AM

Holy Mass ..... 9:00 AM

**Confessions:** Second Sunday of the Month .... 8:15 AM

**Marriage:** 6 months prior arrangement

**Baptisms :** by appointment

vol. 15, # 11

**G L O S**

March 9, 2025

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
PIERWSZA NIEDZIELA WIELKIEGO POSTU  
Commemoration of the Institution of the PNCC**

adapted from: At Home with the Word,

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In Jesus' day, the prophecy of Daniel was one of the essential texts that predicted the coming of the messiah. In Daniel 7:14, the prophet names three gifts that God will give the "one like a son of man." They are authority, glory, and kingship. The temptations Jesus faces in the desert have these characteristics, and reveal that, to His core, Jesus is a servant of God's mission and not His own whims.

The first temptation of Jesus was to grasp authority for His own needs. Every word of God has power and brings some result into

*Continued on Page 10*

**WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL PARISH**

If this is your first visit with us, please sign our guest register in the vestibule and join us for a cake and coffee fellowship that follows every Sunday Mass and on various feast days of the Church year.

Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church has been an integral part of the Manchester and Southern New Hampshire community for 110 years meeting the religious needs first for the Polish immigrant community, and later for all residents of the Granite State. We hope to continue our growth in service to God and community. This commitment manifests itself in a regular devotional and prayer life and a greater participation in both ecumenical and community activities.

At Holy Trinity Cathedral PARISH, our primary emphasis is on the PARISH family. All who belong sense this family spirit - expressed in a real love and concern for one another. Our pastor makes a point to know each family on a one-to-one basis with frequent visits to family homes and to the hospitalized. Thus the spiritual health and vitality of all parishioners and all our friends is supported by both pastor and laity.

***We invite You to join our PARISH family!*** If you are looking for a PARISH and are considering Holy Trinity, feel free to talk with any parishioner about it. We will introduce you to our family in all its wonderful aspects - a family whose real strength lies in our personal and real relationship to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We express this faith in our Church through our liturgy which is Catholic and traditional, shared between priest and laity. We demonstrate this faith in the prayerful material and emotional support we give one another. We share this faith in a Church rooted in Democratic principles, having a church constitution that gives laity full rights and due process in matters financial, administrative and material. OUR PARISH...firm in faith, Catholic, democratic, and OPEN to the growth that comes as more join our family.

**MAKE YOURSELF RIGHT AT HOME!**

**SCHEDULE OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

**Parish Committee Meeting** every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

**The Cemetery Committee** meets as needed

**Lectors, Greeters, Ushers, Collectors ministries** as announced in the bulletin

**Moms in Prayer** meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 AM in the rectory

**Membership and Outreach Team** meets as announced in the bulletin

**Ladies Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament** meets the 3rd Sunday of the month after the 9:00 AM Mass (September - June)

**The Frederick Chopin Choir** rehearses each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM and holds meetings as announced

**Adult Bible Study** - Bi-weekly Wednesdays 7:00 PM Zoom & In Person

**Parishioners Prayer Group** - Thursdays at 11:30 AM in the Craft Room

## EVANGELISM TEAM MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to increase attendance and membership to Holy Trinity Cathedral by fostering a welcoming and respectful environment, where individuals and families can explore and achieve spiritual fulfillment.

We are looking for ideas, any ideas, that can stimulate and increase participation in both the worship and parochial life of Holy Trinity Parish. Is there something you have seen, or experienced in another Church that you think might work well here? Have you had an idea for some time, but were afraid to share it? If you have an idea, no matter what it may be, please pray over it and then share it with either:

Mr. Ray Pieczarka 603-472-5874 or Bishop Paul 603-622-4524.

### WELCOME - TO ALL VISITORS

You are most welcome and your presence is appreciated. All are invited to share in worship and, after Mass, our fellowship. If the people around you fail to say "hello" first, go up to them and say "Hi!" And don't feel awkward. We've all been in those shoes at one time or another. We want you to join us. **So Welcome Home!**



### HTC Membership and Outreach Team Is Inviting YOU Join in an outreach

Our Parish Evangelism Team has reorganized. Known as the "Membership and Outreach" Team, our hope is that a number of our parishioners would like to be a part of an exciting opportunity to help develop programs and liturgies that will spread the Word to others outside our community, and also engage in Internal Evangelism within our parish family.

If **YOU** are interested in reaching out to others for the Lord you are invited to contact either Ray Pieczarka at (603) 472-5874 or Bishop Paul at 622-4524.

IN BISHOP'S ABSENCE AND FOR SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES ONLY,  
PLEASE CALL FATHER ANDRZEJ TENUS OF ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH IN  
LOWELL, MA. PH. # (978) 453-0742

### SAINT COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

We invite our readers to continue reading the history of the lives of the saints that are remembered by the Church this week. Follow the hyperlink below to learn to learn about those saints remembered by the Church this week.

[https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D0314163\\_059\\_806386595](https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D0314163_059_806386595)

Sunday, March 2nd -

We thank the following who provided for our Cae & Coffee reception: Jennie Grenier (Bagels & Cream Cheese, Apricot Squares);

Wendy Thomas (Red Velvet Whoopie Pies, Fruit Bowl); Nancy Beaurivage (Winter Spice Bread); Betty Pasioka (Strawberry Coffee Cake with Nuts); Kathy Card (Tater Tot Casserole); Susan & Stan Bodner (Munchkins).

As always, thanks also to all who donated towards cake & coffee offerings..



Check out our diocesan website:

[www.easterndiocesepncc.com](http://www.easterndiocesepncc.com)

You can reach it on your computer or with your smart phone.



**Polish National  
Catholic Church**

"through the years..."

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK - LIKE US AT:

<https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitycathedralpncc>

We have our own website up and running with Larry Gagnon as webmaster:

<http://www.holytrinitypncc.org/>

### SOUP FOR SENIORS

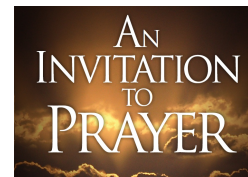
**Sunday, March 2nd** - Last week the Seniors who stayed for the Cake and Coffee reception were treated to ten pint containers of **Sausage and Meatball Soup** through the Soup for Seniors Program sponsored by our HTC Frederick Chopin Choir. **Cindy Hebert** prepared the delightful meal for our seniors to take home.



What delicious treat will our seniors enjoy this Sunday?

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

11 - Erin Reilly    12 - Wanda Piotrowski    12 - Wendy Thomas  
14 - Joan Blajda    18 - Laurie Greene    26 - Valerie Loomis

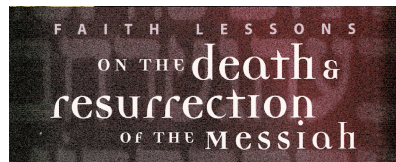


Parishioners are praying jointly for our parish family. You are invited to join them. Prayer gatherings are held Thursdays at 11:30 AM, but can be adjusted if you are interested! Time commitment is about 45 minutes a week. The prayer time is structured and Scripture-based. No advance preparation required. You only need to show up.

Contact Karen Sobiechowski for questions or if you would like to participate.

**OUR PARISH ADULT BIBLE STUDY** is a Zoom & face to face study in the Craft Room. The next scheduled study will be this **TUESDAY, March 4th at 7:00 PM.**

Studies generally last one hour to one and one half hours. If you want to join in the study in person, simply show up. If you join in on Zoom you'll need to ask Bishop Paul for the Zoom link. Study sheets will be sent to all our HTC internet family prior to the study.



**TODAY** we ask our parish family to pray for:

*Father Henry Galas,*  
his family and the faithful of  
*Our Savior Parish,*  
*Dearborn Heights, Michigan,*  
and for  
*Father Andrzej Tenus,*  
his family and the faithful of  
*Saint Casimir Parish,*  
*Lowell, Massachusetts.*



We ask God to bless them in their parochial life and the work they do in their local community. We ask you to pray each day that God would bless and increase their work of evangelism and Christian sharing.

#### LECTIONARY READINGS - FIRST WEEK OF LENT

**Mon.** - Leviticus 19: 1 - 2, 11 - 18      **Thu.** - Esther C 12, 14-16 23 - 25  
Matthew 25: 31 - 46      Matthew 7: 7 - 12

**Tue.** - Isaiah 55: 10 - 11      **Fri.** - Ezekiel 18: 21 - 28  
Matthew 6: 7 - 15      Matthew 5: 20 - 26

**Wed.** - Jonah 3: 1 - 10      **Sat.** - Deuteronomy 26: 16 - 19  
Luke 11: 29 - 32      Matthew 5: 43 - 48

**Next Sun.** - Genesis 15: 5 - 12, 17 - 18 / Psalm 27: 1, 7 - 8, 8 - 9, 13 - 14  
Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1 / Luke 9 28 - 36



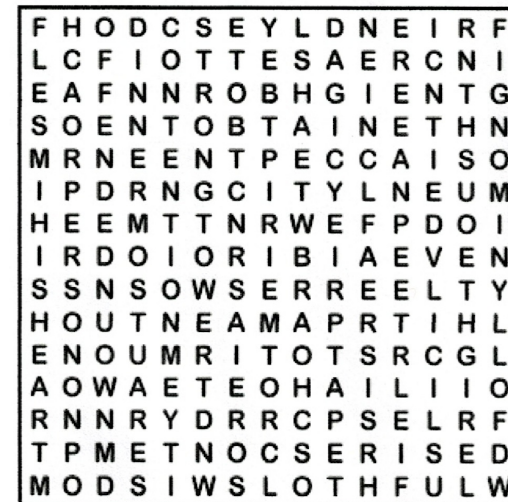
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#### Bible Word Search:

#### PROVERBS 18

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to spell the *Mystery Word*. To work the puzzle on paper instead: Print this page and circle each letter of the words you find.

Accept	Castle
City	Contempt
Contention	Deep
Desire	Entreaties
Folly	Friendly
Himself	His heart
Ignominy	Increase
Infirmity	Innermost
Neighbor	Obtaineth
Offended	Overthrow
Person	Poor
Reproach	Righteous
Separated	Slothful
Spirit	Strong tower
Talebearer	Wellspring
Wisdom	Wiseman
Wounded	



#### PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND:

##### In the Hospital:

**Joseph Komisarek** at the Elliot in Manchesterr, NH  
**Clergy Who Are ill:**  
**Father Paul Zomerfeld** serving in Johnstown, PA  
**Father Senior Augustin Sicard** in San Antonio, TX



##### In nursing homes & rehab centers:

**Stanley Pasieka** at Solaris Imperial Health Care, Naples, Florida  
**Daniela Sienko** at Maple Leaf Healthcare Center, Manchester, NH  
**David Testerman** at Golden View Health Care Center, Meredith, NH  
**Charlotte Raczka** at Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen, NH  
**Frances Dobosz** at Bowman Place in Bedford, NH  
**Vudge Ambrose** at Mt. Carmel Nursing Home, Manchester, NH  
**Fran Gorcyca** at St. Teresa's Rehabilitation Center, Manchester, NH

##### at home:

**Emilia DeVore** at Saint Teresa's Independent Living in Manchester, NH  
**Nancy Montplaisir** at home in Manchester, NH  
**Meg Sheha** in Hollywood, FL



### Clergy serving in the United States Army

COL. Father Andrew Bilinski  
 LT. COL. Father Stanley Jasiurkowski  
 CPT. Father Joseph Kolek  
 CPT. Father Andrzej Tenus  
 CPT. Father Nadeem Yaqoob  
 Cpt. Father Mariusz Mularczyk



### Polish National Catholics & Family Members serving

Lt.Col. Scott M. Krasko	ARMY	REMEMBER
SSGT. Nick Hudak	AIR FORCE RESERVE	THOSE
Alyssa Oxley	AIR FORCE	WHO SERVE
Vincent Manzella	AIR FORCE	
Gregory Walsh	MARINE CORPS	
James Pidgeon	MARINE CORPS	
Andrew Drada	MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD	
Tyler Gardner	NAVY	
Ian and Cody Gonyea	NAVY	
Matthew Paluszek	COAST GUARD	
Zack Richard	ARMY	
Specialist David I. Testerman	NH National Guard	
Lt. JG Dean Testerman	NAVY	

### LENT IS THE TIME FOR PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

Today ALMS BOXES are once again in the back of the Cathedral for you to take home. The alms box is to remind us to set aside a portion of our money to help the needy and less fortunate. We are asking all of our parishioners to set these special offerings during the seasons of Septuagesima and Lent. The offerings will accumulate until Good Friday. Then the boxes can be returned to the cathedral, or a generous check made out to "HTC Good Samaritan Fund." These funds will be given to the International Institute of New England, a local organization that oversees and provides for the resettlement of refugees into our local community. We have assisted IINE in the past and know they care for these refugees in need. Please give generously!

In additions to giving alms, IINE has a "wish list" of items, they could use. If you would like to help in this manner as well...the items needed are: backpacks for elementary school students ages 5 - 8 filled with pencils, crayons, paper, coloring books, etc.; Backpacks for middle school students aged 10-13, filled with notebooks, binders, folders, loose leaf paper, pencils, pens, simple calculators, rulers, scissors, etc.; Backpacks/messenger bags for high school students aged 14-18, filled with binders, folders, loose leaf paper, multiple-subject notebooks, pens, pencils, calculators, scissors,

*Continued on page 8*



### Almsgiving continued

etc.; Gift cards (Amazon, Walmart, Market Basket, and Target are all excellent choices); Kitchen supplies (microwaves, pots/pans sets, tea kettles, silverware sets, knife sets); Towels/hand towel/wash cloth sets; Pillows; Cleaning supplies; Laundry detergent; Twin XL sheets; Tool kits; First aid kits; Hygiene supplies (shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, deodorant); Umbrellas; Diapers sizes 2,3, & 4.

This Month's bulletins are being sponsored by:

#### LAURIE GREENE

**in loving memory of my husband David and our Parents and Siblings.**

If you would like to help your parish and be acknowledged for your gift consider sponsoring the weekly bulletin. For a one hundred (\$ 100.00) dollar donation we will acknowledge your sponsorship and the \$1,200 we can raise annually we hope to generate will just about cover the cost of our bulletin. Please consider sponsoring one month today.

*APRIL 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by DIANE BIELIZNA  
 in loving memory of my mother Caroline, Father Stanley W, and brother + friend Stanley Bielizna and in loving memory of my Aunt Charlotte and Uncle Matthew Albin*

*MAY 2025 & 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by CAROL JUTRAS & FAMILY  
 in loving memory of my husband Raymond and mother Mary Zukosky*

*JUNE 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by LISA FARMER  
 in loving memory of my great grandparents: Anna & Jozef Pierog, Krystyna & Pawel Borowski, Anna & Michal Hunko. Pelagia & Wincenty Legenc*

*JULY 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by BRIAN DUPLESSIS AND SONS  
 in loving memory of wife and mother Leslie*

*SEPTEMBER 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by JOSEPH KOMISAREK  
 in loving memory of wife Louise and son Daniel Komisarek  
 and parents Jennie & Frank Komisarek*

*OCTOBER 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by Jacqueline B. Szopa  
 in loving memory of my grandparents Anna and Albin Grzybowski  
 and uncle Stanley Grzybowski*

*NOVEMBER 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by Jacqueline B. Szopa  
 in loving memory of my husband Dr. Ronald F. Szopa*

*DECEMBER 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by CAROLYN HEBERT  
 in loving memory of Tillie and Chester Kaminski*

*And future bulletins will be sponsored by WHOM ?*

**Monday, Mar. 10th through Tuesday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>  
 - Doctrine Commission Meeting - National Church Center -  
 Scranton, PA - (Bishop Paul attends)**

## MASS INTENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

\* Indicates All Souls Day Offering

### THIS SUNDAY, March 9th, 2025 (Niedziela Dzisiejsza)

#### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT PIERWSZA NIEDZIELA WIELKIEGO POSTU**

**Commemoration of the Institution of the PNCC**

**Daylight Savings Time Begins at 2:00 AM**

**Memorial of Gregory of Nyssa - Bishop**

#### **Parish Alms Collection for local community organization continues**

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

open intention

10:15 AM Cake and Coffee reception in the auditorium

### MONDAY, March 10th, (Poniedziałek)

#### **Memorial of The Forty Martyrs of Sebastea - Martyrs**

Today we pray for God's blessings upon all the parishes of the Eastern Diocese

### TUESDAY, March 11th, (Wtorek)

#### **Memorial of Constantine of Cornwall - King, Confessor**

Today we pray for God's blessings upon all  
the clergy of the Eastern Diocese and their families

7:30 AM Moms in Prayer meets in the rectory

### WEDNESDAY, March 12th, (Środa)

#### **Memorial of Gregory the Great - Bishop, Doctot**

8:45 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

for God's blessings upon all the faithful of the Eastern Diocese  
and the entire PNCC who are ill

6:00 PM Bitter Lamentations - Part II

6:30 PM Parish Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, March 13th, (Czwartek)

#### **Memorial of Roderic - Priest and Solomon - Martyrs**

8:45 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer intention: for God's blessing upon the Cathedral Parish of the  
Eastern Diocese

11:30 AM Parishioners Praying for the HTC Parish Family

7:00 PM Eastern Diocese-wide Zoom Adult Zoom Study - "The Portrait of Jesus  
Christ, His Identity and Mission" This month "Jesus Christ in the Old  
Testament" - led by Deacon Justin Daviault

*Continued on Page 10*

## MASS INTENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK (continued))

### FRIDAY, March 14th, (Piątek)

#### **Memorial of Matilda - Queen, Widow**

8:45 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

for God's blessings upon all the sub-central organizations and  
societies of the Eastern Diocese

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

### SATURDAY, March 15th, (Sobota)

#### **Memorial of Longinus the Centurion - New Testament Martyr**

9:00 AM Northeast Seniorate (North) Lenten Retreat - Saint Casimir Parish -  
Lowell, MA

### NEXT SUNDAY, March 1th, (Niedziela Przyszła)

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

#### **DRUGA NIEDZIELA WIELKIEGO POSTU**

#### **Memorial of Julian of Antioch - Martyr**

#### **Parish Alms Collection for local community organization continues**

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

open intention

10:15 AM Cake and Coffee reception in the auditorium

10:45 AM HTC A.N.S. monthly meeting - craft room

### Page 1 Article (continued)

effect. In Daniel's vision, the messiah would have God's authority. The devil tempted Jesus to use this power to satisfy his hunger, but Jesus saw a higher calling in the Word of God—the ability to sustain life on every level.

The second temptation was to make Himself ruler of the world. The messiah was to be a descendant of David who would rule humanity on God's behalf. Scripture portrays human fantasies of power as the creation of the devil. Jesus avoided falling for these fantasies, realizing that true kingship requires humility and sacrifice. To be the deputy of God requires total surrender to the divine will. This is the nature of the kingship Daniel foretold.

The third temptation was to glory. In Daniel's vision, the messiah was superhuman, able to command angels and ride on a cloud. Again, these are human fantasies of glory. Falling prey to them gives the devil opportunities for exploitation. Jesus knew, however, that the only path to glory is obedience to God's will.

*Continued on Page 11*

In each case, Jesus overcame temptation by remembering that the purpose of His life was to serve God's mission. His obedience to that mission helped him see through the duplicities of the devil. Christ remains ready today to lead His disciples through the same temptations and onward to glory.

- With what gifts has God endowed you?
- Have empty fantasies ever distracted you from God's presence?
- This Lent, how can you embrace more deeply the purpose God has given to your life?

### Practice of Faith

At each temptation, Jesus has the last word, finally telling the devil that only the Lord is to be worshiped and served. Jesus' single-minded focus serves as a model for our spiritual focus during Lent. Now is the time for renewed resolve to place God first in our hearts and minds.

- Finalize your Lenten plans and place reminders on your bathroom mirror, over your kitchen sink, or on your phone.
- Dedicate your Lenten fasting to those in need. With other parishioners, participate in the Alms program to help International Institute of New Hampshire, placing money saved into the cardboard alms boxes.

### Questions

- In today's first reading, Moses gathers the people to thank God for all the "signs and wonders" he has worked for them over the past forty years. What are the signs and wonders that God is working in your life? In what way is your story like the story of our Jewish ancestors?
- How can the words of today's responsorial psalm (Psalm 91) help us in resisting evil and temptation? Have you ever considered how angels might be guarding you?
- When we are tempted, where can we find strength to resist? What clues does today's Gospel offer? In the midst of these struggles, how can we be bread for others?

### Family Activities

- Take time this week to make a list of the things that tempt you—things that weaken or block your relationship with God or

Continued on Page 12

neighbor. With a friend or in your journal, brainstorm ways you might overcome your temptations.


- Our God is compassionate, merciful, and forgiving. During Lent especially, talk to God often about your struggles to follow the divine will and ask for help with temptations and shortcomings. Plan to avail yourself of the sacrament of penance, and be prepared to experience the loving embrace of God.
- In today's Gospel, Jesus resists the temptation to turn stone into bread, even though He has been fasting. Seek out a soup kitchen or agency that provides bread for those who are hungry or unhoused. Commit to serving this agency once a month.

### COMING EVENTS

#### MARCH 2025

**Mon. Mar. 17** - National Mission & Evangelism Commission Zoom meeting  
-7:00 PM

**Tue. Mar. 18** - Moms in Prayer meets in the rectory - 7:30 AM  
HTC Bible Study "in person" & Zoom - craft room 7:00 PM


**Wed. Mar. 19** - **Holy Mass & Liturgy of Ordination of Deacon Justin Daviault to the Holy Order of Priesthood - Holy Trinity Parish - Plantsville, CT** - 10:00 AM   
Eastern Diocese Faithful Join in Prayer: for our parish, diocese and general church - 12:00 PM

**Thu. Mar. 20** - **Bishop Anthony Rysz (d. 2015)**  
Parishioners Pray for the Parish Family-Craft Room - 6:30PM  
Parish Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM

**Fri. Mar 21** - **Stations of the Cross** - 6:00 PM 

**Sun. Mar. 23** - **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**Holy Mass** - 9:00 AM  
Cake & Coffee Reception (auditorium) - 10:15 AM  
**Mon. Mar. 24** - **HTC Lenten Penitential Liturgy & Absolution** - 6:00 PM  
2026 PNCC General Synod preparation committee Zoom meeting  
-7:00 PM

**Tue. Mar. 25** - Moms in Prayer meets in the rectory - 7:30 AM  
PNCC Bishops' Bi-weekly Zoom meeting - 1:00 PM  
Eastern Diocese Mission & Evangelism Commission Zoom meeting - 7:00 PM

**Wed. Mar. 26** - Eastern Diocese Faithful Join in Prayer: for our parish, diocese and general church - 12:00 PM   
**Gorzkie Zale / Bitter Lamentations 1** - 6:00 PM  
Parish Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM

**Thu. Mar. 27** - Parishioners Pray for the Parish Family craft room - 11:30 AM

**Fri. Mar. 28** - **Stations of the Cross** - 6:00 PM 

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## COMING EVENTS *(continued)*

- Sat. Mar. 29** - Southwest Seniorate Lenten Retreat - Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT - 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM - *(Bishop Paul attends)*
- Sun. Mar. 30** - **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
*Holy Mass with the Anointing of the Sick* - 9:00 AM  
Cake & Coffee Reception (auditorium) - 10:15 AM
- Mon. Mar. 31 - Wed. April 2** - National Mission & Evangelism Commission Meeting - National Church Center - Scranton, PA - *(Bishop Paul and Karen attend)*

**March 2025** - Join us in prayer each Wednesday at noon:

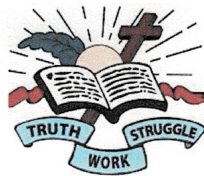


Let us pray for those who do not believe in God. May they receive the gift of faith that they may come to believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

Almighty and Eternal God, You created humanity in Your own image and likeness. Grant grace to those who do not believe in You, so that all might come to acknowledge You as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(From A Book of Devotions and Prayers, Polish National Catholic Church)*

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name;  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



**DURING LENT WE ABSTAIN FROM MEAT  
ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS**



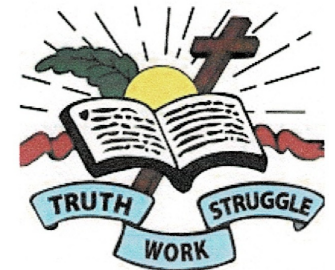
Burning alms last Sunday for the Ashes of Ash Wednesday

## DISCIPLESHIP 2025: KNOW YOUR FAITH, GROW IN CHRIST

The Eastern Diocese will focus on

**The Person of Jesus Christ,  
His Identity and Mission.**

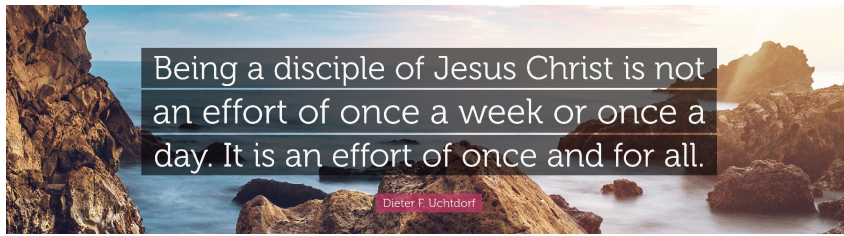
Please join us for the **third in a series** of virtual  
“**Know and Grow**” presentations on  
**Thursday March 13, 2025, at 7:00 PM (EDT).**



Deacon Justin Daviault will help us to explore the topic,  
**Jesus in the Old Testament.**

Each unit will have biblical texts as a starting point,  
with lecture, meditation, discussion, and practical life applications.

To join via Zoom, please contact [revpauls@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauls@yahoo.com) or  
[ksobiechowski@yahoo.com](mailto:ksobiechowski@yahoo.com)



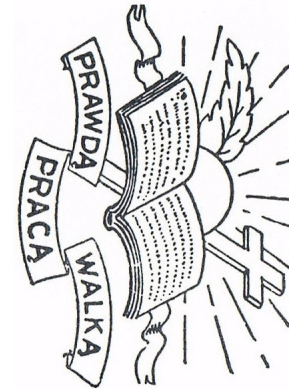
### The Illusion of 'Sacrifice'

“Go, learn the meaning of the words, what I want is mercy, not sacrifice, knowledge of God, not burnt offerings in the temple.” —Hosea 6:6

Jesus himself quotes twice from this passage from Hosea in Matthew’s Gospel, both times to defend himself from the “holier than thou” types. Both times he precedes it with a strong imperative or plea: “Go, learn the meaning of these words,” or “If you only understood the meaning of these words.” Well, it is still important that we learn the meaning of these words because much of religion has not. If we can get this, the Gospel of the publican and the Pharisee will quickly explain itself, and you will see that Jesus was an astute teacher, centuries ahead of modern psychology. The Pharisee is the common heroic “sacrificer.” People do not realize that this gesture largely feeds the ego and one’s sense of self much more than anything else. God does not need it. You need it. Sacrifice is unconsciously an attempt to control God, who does much better without our control. Our tax collector friend has apparently “gone and learned the meaning of the words” because from a distance, with bowed head, “all he did was beat his breast and say, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’” And then Jesus delivers his stunning conclusion, still stunning today: “Believe me, this man went home from the temple justified before God, but the other did not.” I hope you have observed that Jesus is never upset at sinners! He is only upset with people who do not think they are sinners.

“Merciful God, all I can give you, and all you ever want, is who I really am. This little woman or little man that I am now gives you back my only and true self.”

— from the book *Wondrous Encounters: Scriptures for Lent*  
by Richard Rohr, OFM



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