



**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. 16, # 11

G Ł O S

March 15, 2026

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
CZWARTA NIEDZIELA WIELKIEGO POSTU**

(Laetare Sunday)

adapted from: Celebration: A Comprehensive Worship Resource,
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Scripture Insights

Seeing is frequently a metaphor for perception and understanding. Clear-seeing makes possible sound judgment and right action. Of course, humans have difficulty seeing in the dark. Darkness cloaks those who prefer that their actions remain unseen. It brings danger we do not know to dodge. And it symbolizes a lack of perception and understanding that leads to poor choices and false judgments. God teaches Samuel the difference between human seeing and divine seeing. Human seeing lingers at the surface,

Continued on Page 8

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 111 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 as announced on Mondays 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 September - June, as announced

Adult Bible Study - Bi-weekly Tuesdays 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 about those saints remembered by the Church this week.

https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D0314163_059_809770977

Sunday, March 8th -

We thank the following who provided for our Cake & Coffee reception: Jennie Grenier (Mini Bagels and Cream Cheese, Snickerdoodles); Wendy Thomas (Fresh Fruit Bowl); Betty Pasiicka (Lemon Soak Cake); Kathy Card (Deviled Eggs); Karen Sobiechowski (Cranberry Orange Cookies); Darlene Wyskiel (Powdered Sugar Donuts); HTC Bakers (Assorted Pastries).



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

Check out our diocesan website:

www.easterndiocesepncc.org

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



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

Last week the Seniors who stayed for the Cake and Coffee reception were treated to ten pint containers of **Cream of Broccoli Soup** through the Soup for Seniors Program sponsored by our HTC Frederick Chopin Choir. **Karen Sobiechowski** prepared the delightful meal for our seniors to take home.



What delicious treat will our seniors enjoy this Sunday?

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

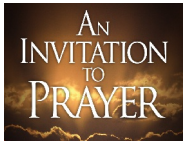
03 - Karen Testerman 11 - Erin Reilly 12 - Wanda Piotrowski
12 - Wendy Thomas 14 - Joan Blajda 18 - Laurie Greene
26 - Valerie Loomis 29 - Laura DiVirgilio



CHOIR ANNOUNCES PALM SUNDAY KIELBASA SALE

The Frederick Chopin Choir is once again selling kielbasa for your Easter celebrations. Pre-orders for one pound packages of links are being accepted NOW, so speak with a choir member today to place your order.

Deadline for pre-orders is Sunday March 22, and kielbasa will be here for purchase and pick-up on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026.



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 17th 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 are sent to all our participants following each study.



Agnus Day



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TODAY we ask our parish family to pray for

For the work of

Father Joseph Cyman,
his family and the faithful of
Holy Cross Parish,
Woodland Park, New Jersey
and

Father Justin Daviault,
his family and the faithful of
Holy Trinity Parish,
Plantsville, Connecticut

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 - The Fourth Week of Lent

- Mon. - Isaiah 65: 17 - 21
John 4: 43 - 54
- Tue. - Ezekiel 47: 1- 9, 12
John 5: 1 - 3, 5 - 16
- Wed. - Isaiah 49: 8 - 15
John 5: 17 - 30
- Thu. - Exodus 32: 7 - 14
John 5: 31 - 37
- Fri. - Wisdom 2: 1, 12 - 22
John 7: 1 - 2, 10, 25 - 30
- Sat. - Jeremiah 11: 18 - 20
John 7: 40 - 53
- Next Sun. - Ezekiel 37: 12 - 14 / Psalm 130: 1 - 2, 3 - 4, 5 - 6, 7 - 8
Romans 8: 8 - 11 / John 11: 1 - 45

MASS INTENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

* Indicates All Souls Day Offering

THIS SUNDAY, March 15th, 2026, (Niedziela Dzisiejsza)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
CZWARTA NIEDZIELA WIELKIEGO POSTU
- LAETARE SUNDAY

Memorial of Zachary of Rome - Bishop

Remember Lenten Alm Boxes Collection to benefit the International Institute of New England

- 9:00 AM Holy Mass with the administration of the Sacrament of Anointing Prayer Intention
sp. Jo-Ann O'Connell requested by husband Gary
- 10:15 AM Cake & Coffee Reception in the auditorium
- 10:20 AM School of Christian Living Class
- 10:45 AM HTC A.N.S. Monthly Meeting - craft room

MONDAY, March 16th, (Poniedziałek)

Memorial of Gregory Makar - Bishop

- 7:30 AM Moms in Prayer meets in the rectory
- 8:45 AM Morning Prayer
- 9:00 AM Holy Mass
Prayer Intention
sp. Father Senior Augustin Sicard requested by Bishop Paul and Karen
for God's blessings upon all the parishes of the Eastern Diocese
- 6:00 PM HTC Lenten Penitential Liturgy & Absolution
- 7:00 PM Eastern Diocese Mission & Evangelism Commission Zoom meeting
Continued on Page 7

"Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and come together all you that love her; rejoice with joy you that have been in sorrow: that you may exult, and be filled from the breasts of your consolation."

Isaiah 66: 10-11

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

TUESDAY, March 17th, (Wtorek)

Memorial of Joseph of Arimathea - *New Testament*

7:30 AM Moms in Prayer meets in the rectory

8:45 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention

for God's blessings upon all the Eastern diocesan clergy & their

6:00 _____ on meeting

7:00 PM HTC Bible Study "in person" & Zoom - craft room

WEDNESDAY, March 18th, (Środa)

Memorial of Alexander of Jerusalem - *Bishop*

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.

12:00 PM Eastern Diocese Faithful Join in Prayer: for our parish, diocese and general church

6:00 PM Bitter Lamentations - Part II

6:30 PM Parish Choir rehearsal



THURSDAY, March 19th, (Czwartek)

JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Memorial of John of Panaca - *Abbot*

8:45 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

for God's blessings upon all the work and spiritual direction of this cathedral parish of the Eastern Diocese

6:30 P Parishioners Praying for the HTC Parish family in the craft room

7:00 PM Parish Committee Meeting



FRIDAY, March 20th, (Piątek)

Memorial of Cuthbert - *Bishop*

sp. Bishop Anthony Rysz (d. 2015)

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 Devotion

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Mon. Mar. 23 - Tue. Mar. 24 - *National Mission & Evangelism Commission Meeting - Holy Family Parish - McKeesport, PA- (Bishop Paul attends)*

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

SATURDAY, March 21st, (Sobota)

Memorial of Serapion the Scholastic - *Bishop*

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention

open intention

NEXT SUNDAY, March 22nd, (Niedziela Przyszła)

PASSION SUNDAY

NIEDZIELA MĘKI PAŃSKIEJ

Memorial of Basil of Ancyra - *Martyr*

Remember Lenten Alm Boxes Collection to benefit the International Institute of New England

9:00 AM Holy Mass with the administration of the Sacrament of Anointing

Prayer Intention

10:15 AM Cake & Coffee Reception in the auditorium

10:20 AM NO S.O.C.L. Class today

Page 1 Article (continued)

forming judgments based on external qualities. God looks deeper, probing into character, mind, and will. What God sees in "the heart" becomes the basis for choosing the people's leader.

The psalmist knows the danger of darkness. Though it would be natural to fear it, the psalmist finds courage in God's protecting presence, trusting the divine Shepherd to bring the sheep safely through.

For the writer of Ephesians, Christ is the source of light that banishes darkness and makes clear-seeing possible. Those who walk in this light become light in turn, helping others see and choose what is right. Their light also reveals what others have tried to hide. In so doing they help create conditions of safety and justice.

In John's Gospel, seeing is more than metaphor: Jesus heals a man born with blindness, causing his eyes to see for the first time. This act of healing prompts the man to identify Jesus as a prophet, since certain of Israel's prophets (especially Elijah and Elisha) were also miraculous healers. But Jesus is more than a prophet. The man's ability to perceive Jesus with his eyes becomes a symbol of his ability to "see" Jesus for who he is. This perception prompts him to believe in and worship Jesus.

- God commanded rest on the Sabbath. Why do you think Jesus continued his healing ministry even on sabbath days?
- The psalmist is portrayed as a sheep in the Lord's flock. What

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Page 1 Article (continued)

does this metaphor suggest about us as God's people?

- Have you been afraid of something you cannot perceive clearly? How can the light you receive from Christ help dispel the fear?

Practice of Faith

The healing of the blind man teaches that Jesus takes the initiative in our spiritual life. Sin blinds us from the true vision of God and wounds our souls and our relationships. Jesus is waiting to touch you, heal you, and restore you to communion with him and others. Some may question your belief in Christ. You are called to profess your faith in Jesus to them. At Mass, Jesus asks you to stand before Him, say "I do believe, Lord," and worship Him. How can you avail yourself of Jesus' healing touch this week?

- Examine your conscience. Which daily habits blind you from the light of Christ? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how you have offended God and others.
- Participate in the sacrament of reconciliation. Allow Jesus to heal your spiritual blindness.
- At Mass, concentrate on the words of the creed. Show Jesus you believe by boldly professing faith in Him.

Questions

- There are a number of stories in the Bible in which God chooses unexpected people. In what ways is David an unexpected choice? This week, the theme of blindness unfolds in the Gospel. How is this story also about blindness?
- Psalm 23 is a song of solace and comfort. The Lord, a good shepherd, will care for us so fully that there is literally nothing we will want. Has this psalm meant something special to you or anyone you know? What does the Good Shepherd do for those who trust him? What line is most resonant at this point in your spiritual journey?
- The Gospel recounts for us one of the many stories of Jesus, the healer. Here we see many characters: the blind man, the community, the parents, the Pharisees. Who are you in this story at this moment? Why do you relate to that person or persons?

Family Activities

- God clearly does not choose by appearances, and yet the story

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Page 1 Article (continued) from the Book of Samuel offers us a description of David that is very compelling. Meditate on this seeming contradiction.

- Pray Psalm 23 in your prayer time this week by reading it slowly or listening to a recording that touches your heart and mind.
- Notice the ways that water and light appear in this Gospel, which reads almost like a short story. Where do you see images of baptism in this story? Notice the challenge of speaking the truth in this powerful healing episode. Why is it so difficult to speak the truth? How is this true in our lives, as well as in the story? Discuss or write your thoughts in your journal.

COMING EVENTS

- Mon. Mar. 23 - Tue. Mar. 24 - National Mission & Evangelism Commission Meeting - Holy Family Parish - McKeesport, PA- (Bishop Paul attends)**
- Tue. Mar. 24 - FEAST OF GABRIEL, ARCHANGEL**
- Wed. Mar. 25 - SOLEMNITY - ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
Eastern Diocese Faithful Join in Prayer: for our parish, diocese and general church - 12:00 PM
Gorzkie Zale / Bitter Lamentations 3 - 6:00 PM
Parish Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM
- Thu. Mar. 26 - Parishioners Pray for the Parish Family craft room - 11:30 AM**
- Fri. Mar. 27 - Stations of the Cross - 6:00 PM**
- Sun. Mar. 29 - PALM SUNDAY**
Holy Mass with the Blessing and distribution of Palms, Procession and Reading of the Passion of our Lord - 9:00 AM
Cake & Coffee Reception (auditorium) - 10:15 AM
NO S.O.C.L. this Sunday
- Mon. Mar. 30 - MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK**
Moms in Prayer meets in the rectory - 7:30 AM
- Tue. Mar. 31 - TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**
CHRISM Mass, Blessing of Holy Oils, and Renewal of Priestly Vows - Holy Cross Parish - Central Falls, Rhode Island- 4:00 PM

Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as *Laetare* Sunday for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon *laetare* (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant has the option to wear rose-colored vestments.

Bible Word Search:

POSITIONS IN THE CHURCH

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.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Archivist | Board member | Bookkeeper |
| Celebrant | Chairperson | Chaplain |
| Coordinator | Council | Elder |
| Father | Fellowship | Finance |
| Holy woman | Minister | Missions |
| Moderator | Monk | Organist |
| Pastor | Preacher | Priest |
| Prophet | Reverend | Secretary |
| Stewardship | Treasurer | Usher |
| Vicar | Volunteer | Worship |
| Youth group | | |



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



**REMEMBER
THOSE
WHO SERVE**

Polish National Catholics & Family Members serving

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lt.Col. Scott M. Krasko | ARMY |
| SSGT. Nick Hudak | AIR FORCE RESERVE |
| Alyssa Oxley | AIR FORCE |
| 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 |
| Sgt. David I. Testerman | NH NATIONAL GUARD |
| Lt. Dean Testerman | NAVY |
| Anthony Bencosme | AIR FORCE |

*“Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God?
Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving.”*
— Saint Augustine of Hippo

**PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND:
In the Hospital:**

Clergy Who Are ill:

Father Paul Zomerfeld retired in Johnstown, PA
Father Senior Augustin Sicard in San Antonio, TX

In nursing homes & rehab centers:

Daniela Sienko at Maple Leaf Healthcare Center, Manchester, NH
Charlotte Raczka at Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen, NH
Frances Dobosz at Bowman Place in Bedford, NH
Donna Wyskiel in Hanover Hills Nursing Home, Manchester, NH
Vudge Ambrose at Mt. Carmel Nursing Home, Manchester, NH
Fran Gorcyca at St. Teresa’s Rehabilitation Center, Manchester, NH
Stanley Pasiaka at American House in Bonita Springs, FL

at home:

Carolyn Dickson at home in Manchester, NH
Emilia DeVore at Saint Teresa’s Independent Living in Manchester, NH
Nancy Montplaisir at home in Manchester, NH
Joseph Komisarek at home in Bedford, NH
Meg Sheha in Hollywood, FL
Walter Pazdon at Home in Manchester, NH



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

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 turned over to **the International Institute of New England**. This organization that has cared for refugees that are settled in the Manchester area is facing drastic governmental funding cutbacks, while they still pursue assisting legal refugees into our Greater Manchester community. We know and have helped IINE in their work in the past. God calls us to help the needy. Let us help IINE accomplish their important work. Please give generously!

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 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by a Friend of the Parish
for the Four Chaplains of World War II*

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

*JUNE 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by NANCY AXT
in loving memory of husband, John Axt*

*JULY 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by NANCY AXT
in loving memory of parents, Walter and Phyllis Picuch*

*AUGUST 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by BRIAN DUPLESSIS AND SONS
in loving memory of wife and mother Leslie*

*SEPTEMBER 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by JOSEPH KOMISAREK
in loving memory of wife Louise and son Daniel Komisarek
and parents Jennie & Frank Komisarek*

*OCTOBER 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by a Friend of the Parish
for God's blessings on the decisions made by this year's General Synod*

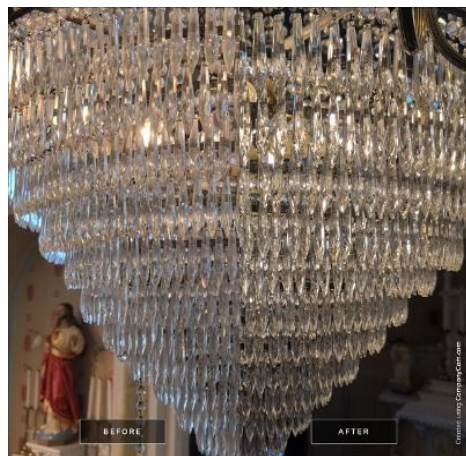
*NOVEMBER 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by a Friend of the Parish
for the Founding Families of Holy Trinity Cathedral*

*DECEMBER 2026 bulletins will be sponsored by CAROLYN HEBERT
in loving memory of Chester and Tillie Kaminski*

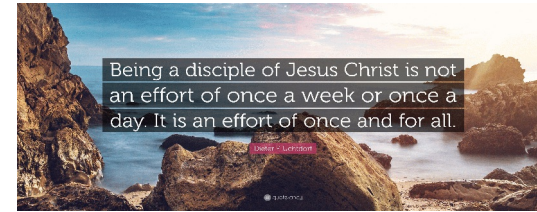
And future bulletins will be sponsored by WHOM ?

The Cathedral
Chandelier
hanging at the
center-front
cleaned this past
Thursday.

BEFORE



AFTER



The Demonization of the Other

“Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us, he sets himself against our doings.... To us he is the censure of our thoughts. Merely to see him is a hardship.”—Wisdom 2:12, 14

“[Jesus] had decided not to travel in Judea because some of the Jews were looking for a chance to kill him.... Some of the people of Jerusalem remarked ‘Is this not the one they want to kill?’”—John 7:1, 25

We have perhaps read the studies which show that once a group has decided to differentiate itself from another group, the rules of conversation change toward that group. We are inclined to believe the worst of them, paranoia and conspiracy theories soon abound, they are fair game for the commentators, and our chosen mistrust looks for any justification whatsoever to fear, hate, or even kill. Soon any defensive or even offensive attacks toward that person or group are fully rationalized and justified. It is a rare person who can stand uninfluenced by this field of gossip and innuendo. This is the sad pattern of human history. It is just such an atmosphere that is presented in both readings today, as we near the climactic events of Holy Week. The taunting verses from the book of Wisdom sound familiar to most Christians because they are the backdrop of the Crucifixion scene: “If he is the son of God, then God will defend him.” In the full text we read a kind of bravado and defiance, daring the “just person” to prove himself. It feels like the school bully mocking the classmate who might be smarter, more popular, or even more mature. For some strange reason, fearful humans are threatened by anyone outside of their frame of reference. They are always a threat and must be brought down. The same pattern is then found in the Gospel. So strange that even religious authorities can speak openly of wanting to kill Jesus, and the crowds even openly know about this. What has religion come to? Vengeance is often an open, but denied secret when fear and gossip reign in a society. Every attempt is being made to discredit Jesus, and even his family of origin, which is a very common pattern. (The whole of John 7 might give you even more of the feeling of malice and intrigue than the selected passage here in the Lectionary.) Jesus is slowly being isolated for the attack, he moves around “secretly.” You can feel his loneliness and anguish, and all he can do is claim his true origins—to deaf ears. In these days, we are being invited to share in the passion of Jesus, and in the aloneness and fear of all who have been hated and hunted down since the beginning of time.

“God of loving truth, keep me from the world of gossip and accusation. Do not let me ‘kill’ others, even in my mind or heart.”

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

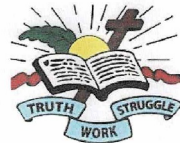
March 2026 - Join us in prayer each Wednesday at noon:



All-powerful and eternal God, we look forward to the day when nations will no longer wage war against nations and all people will live in security and peace. No matter what conflicts may face us, strengthen our will to work for peace. As we seek justice and oppose evil, may our purpose be to achieve peace and accord among all nations and peoples. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.
(From the PNCC Book of Devotions and Prayers)

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.

Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission



**BISHOP PAUL SOBIECHOWSKI
PASTOR**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL PARISH
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
166 PEARL STREET
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PH. 603-692-4524**

