



**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. 14, # 31

**G L O S**

August 11, 2024

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**DZIEWIĘTNASTA NIEDZIELA ZWYKŁA**

adapted from: adapted from: *At Home with the Word,*  
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In John's Gospel, Jesus is engaged in His "Bread of Life discourse" to gathering crowds following his Galilean signs at Passover. This festival celebrates God's power and presence among the Israelites during the Exodus and Sinai covenant. Covenantal symbolism ensues as Jesus presses His audience to be open to God acting in Him now just as God acted in the past.

Jesus now proclaims, "I am the bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:41). He embodies God's gift of manna in the Sinai wilderness. The crowd questions how Jesus makes such claims when

*Continued on Page 12*

**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 109 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**

*(Unless otherwise announced - Many meetings cancelled due to Covid-19)*

**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)

**Holy Trinity Seniors** will resume at a later date

**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 will be reorganizing in the near future. 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\\_805790541](https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D0314163_059_805790541)

**Sunday, August 4th** - We thank the following who provided for our Cake and Coffee Reception last Sunday: Jennie Grenier (Bagels and Cream Cheese, Brownies); Betty Pasioka (Orange-Pineapple Cake with Nuts); Laurie Greene (Fresh Fruit Bowl); Karen Testerman (Double Chocolate Almond Cookies, Chocolate Chip Almond Cookies); Nancy Beurivage (Mini Yogurt Parfaits); Karen Sobiechowski (Cranberry Orange Bread, Blueberry-Lemon Bread); Bill Zygodlo (Candy from Poland).

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.

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK - LIKE US AT:

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

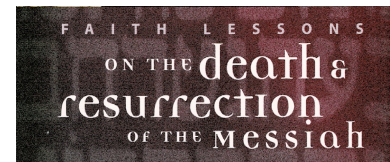
We have our own website up and running with Larry Gagnon as webmaster:

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

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

09 - Sue Bodner 11 - Joyce Deminna 17 - Elizabeth Goucher  
19 - Alina Swiadas 24 - Julie Swiadas

Parishioners are praying jointly for our parish family. You are invited to join them. Prayer gatherings are held Thursdays at 11:30 AM. 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, September 10th 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.



**Bishop Paul & Karen will take their vacation from the evening of Sunday, August 25th through the evening of Wednesday, September 4th. In their absence Father Andrew Tenus will celebrate Holy Mass on Sunday, September 1st at 8:30 AM.**

**Father Tenus will also be available for any sacramental needs and Communion visits. Contact him at (978) 453-0742.**

TODAY we ask our parish family to pray for:

**Father Mark Gnidzinski,**  
his family and the faithful of  
**Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**of Częstochowa Parish,**  
**Latham, New York**  
and for

**Father Pawel Lukaszewicz,**  
his family and the faithful of  
**Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish,**  
**Chicopee, 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.

**“Love is a law, a commandment: It creates in Christians a dynamic that leads us to do all that God wants, spontaneously, without even having to think about it, because, by this time, we have made God’s will ours and we love everything that God loves.”**

**RANIERO CANTALAMESSA O.F.M. CAP.**  
*Sober Intoxication of the Spirit Pt. 2*

**DynamicCatholic.com**

**Bible Word Search:**

**PARABLES OF JESUS**

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.

- Building a tower
- Evil servant
- Faithful steward
- Growing seed
- Leaven
- New wine
- Rich fool
- Rock
- Sower
- Two debtors
- Unjust steward
- Unworthy servant
- Vineyard
- Creditor
- Faithful servant
- Great price
- King making war
- Minas
- Pearl
- Rich man
- Sand
- Tax Collector
- Two sons
- Unshrunk cloth
- Wicked servant



**LECTIONARY READINGS - NINETEENTH WEEK**  
**ORDINARY TIME**

- Mon.** - Ezekiel 1: 2 - 5, 24 - 28    **Thu.** - Ezekiel 12: 1 - 2  
Matthew 17: 22 - 27                      Matthew 18:21 - 19: 1
- Tue.** - Ezekiel 2:8 - 3: 4.                      **Fri.** - Ezekiel 16: 59 - 63  
Matthew 18: 1 - 5, 10, 12 - 14              Matthew 19: 3 - 12
- Wed.** - Ezekiel 9: 1-7, 10:18-22    **Sat.** - Ezekiel 18: 1 -10, 13, 30 - 32  
Matthew 18: 15 - 20                      Matthew 19: 13 - 15
- Next Sun.** - Proverbs 9: 1 - 6 / Psalm 34: 2 - 3, 10 - 11, 12 - 13, 14 - 15  
Ephesians 5: 15 - 20 / John 6: 51 - 58

**Church Mice**



used with permission

August 2024

Join us in prayer each Wednesday at noon:



ACT OF LOVE: O God, I love You above all things with my whole heart and soul. You are worthy of all love. I also love my neighbor as myself just as You commanded me to do, because of my love for You. In living this love I will forgive those who have injured me and I will ask pardon of all whom I have injured.✠  
(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.

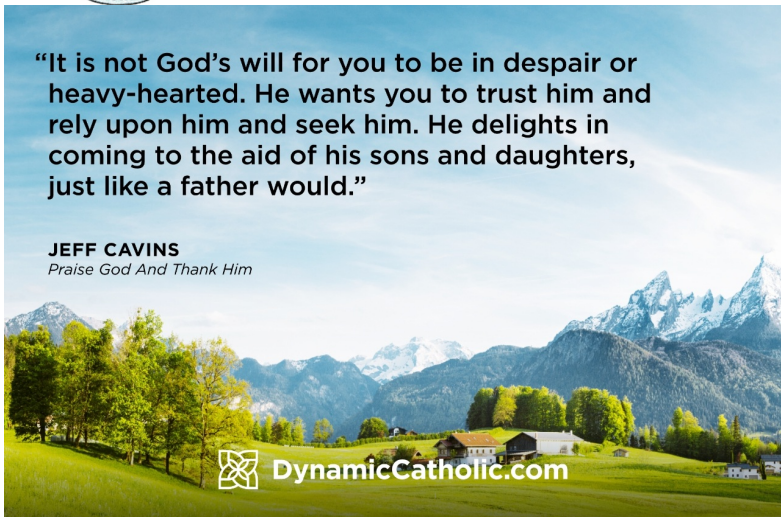
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



PNCC Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission

“It is not God’s will for you to be in despair or heavy-hearted. He wants you to trust him and rely upon him and seek him. He delights in coming to the aid of his sons and daughters, just like a father would.”

JEFF CAVINS  
Praise God And Thank Him



**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



**Polish National Catholics & Family Members serving**

- |                               |                             |                                |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Major. Scott M. Krasko        | ARMY                        | REMEMBER<br>THOSE<br>WHO SERVE |
| 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                        |                                |
| Specialist David I. Testerman | NH National Guard           |                                |
| Lt. JG Dean Testerman         | NAVY                        |                                |

**PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND:**

In the Hospital:

Clergy Who Are ill:

- Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak* in Westfield, MA
- Father Paul Zomerfeld* serving in Johnstown, PA
- Father Senior Augustin Sicard* in San Antonio, TX



In nursing homes & rehab centers:

- 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 Gorczyca* at St. Teresa’s Rehabilitation Center, Manchester, NH

at home:

- Joseph Komisarek* at home in Bedford, NH
- Emilia DeVore* at Saint Teresa’s Independent Living in Manchester, NH
- Phyllis Piecuch* at home in Manchester, NH
- Nancy Montplaisir* at home in Manchester, NH
- Meg Sheha* in Hollywood, FL

**Bishop Paul leaves Monday August 12th** to co-chair the Anglican G-3 - PNCC Dialogue meeting at All Saints PNCC Cathedral in Chicago, IL. He will return the night of August 14th.



This Month's bulletins are being sponsored by:

CAROLYN HEBERT

in loving memory of Tillie and Chester Kaminski.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2024 bulletins will be sponsored by JOSEPH KOMISAREK

in loving memory of wife Louise and son Daniel Komisarek

OCTOBER 2024 bulletins will be sponsored by JACQUELINE SZOPA

in loving memory of my aunt and uncle, Valerie and Benedict Grzybowski

NOVEMBER 2024 bulletins will be sponsored by JACQUELINE SZOPA

in loving memory of my husband Dr. Ronald F. Szopa

DECEMBER 2024 bulletins will be sponsored by LISA FARMER

in loving memory of her deceased grandparents Frank and Laura Pirok.

JANUARY 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by CAROLYN HEBERT

in loving memory of Joan Kaminski

March 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by LAURIE GREENE

in loving memory of my husband David and our parents and siblings

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

SEPTEMBER 2025 bulletins will be sponsored by JOSEPH KOMISAREK

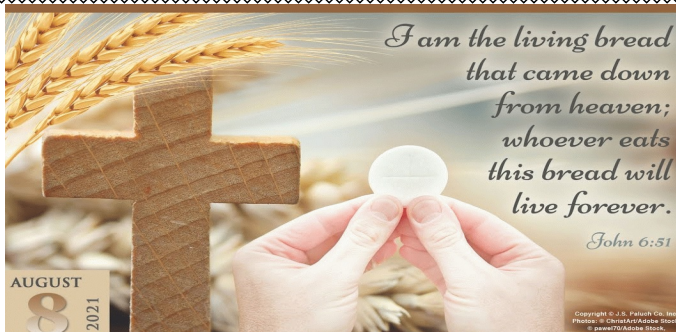
in loving memory of wife Louise and son Daniel Komisarek

and parents Jennie & Frank Komisarek

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 ??



## MASS INTENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

\* Indicates All Souls Day Offering

**THIS SUNDAY, August 11th, 2024 (Niedziela Dzisiejsza)**

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**DZIEWIĘTNASTA NIEDZIELA ZWYKŁA**

**Memorial of Equitius - Abbot**

*sp. Prime Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski, 1990*

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

open intention

10:15 AM Cake and Coffee reception in the auditorium

**MONDAY, August 12th, (Poniedziałek)**

**Memorial of Euplus - Deacon, Martyr**

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

**TUESDAY, August 13th, (Wtorek)**

**Memorial of Cassian of Imola - Martyr**

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

**WEDNESDAY, August 14th, (Środa)**

**Memorial of Simplician - Bishop**

Today we pray for for God's blessings upon all 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

**THURSDAY, August 15th, (Czwartek)**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE DORMITION/ASSUMPTION**

**OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Memorial of Arnulf - Bishop**

8:45 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

sp. Nancy Reilly requested by Bishop Paul & Karen

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

11:30 AM Parishioners Praying for our Parish Family

7:00 PM Eastern Diocese Finance Commission Zoom meeting

*Continued on Page 11*

PSALM 33:9

**TASTE AND SEE THAT  
THE LORD IS GOOD**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

MASS INTENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK (continued)

FRIDAY, August 16th, (Piątek)

**Memorial of Armel - Abbot**

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

1:00 PM PNCC Bishops' Zoom meeting

SATURDAY, August 17th, (Sobota)

**Memorial of Leberatus and Companions - Martyrs**

8:45 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

for God's blessings upon all Youth of our Eastern Diocese that the gifts of the Holy Spirit would be lavished upon them, producing the many fruits of the same Holy Spirit

NEXT SUNDAY, August 18th, (Niedziela Przyszła)

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**DWUDZIESTA NIEDZIELA ZWYKŁA**

**Memorial of Florus and Laurus - Martyrs**

9:00 AM Holy Mass

Prayer Intention:

sp. Mira Tucek requested by Bishop Paul & Karen

10:15 AM Cake and Coffee reception in the auditorium

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**COMING EVENTS**

**Sun. Aug. 18 - TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Holy Mass - 9:00 AM**

Cake & Coffee Reception after the Mass - 10:15 AM

**Mon. Aug. 19 - Thu. Aug. 22 - Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat at Camp Berea - Hebron, NH**

**Tue. Aug. 20 - Volunteers gather to prepare pierogi filling in the auditorium - 8:00 AM**

**Wed. Aug. 21 - Volunteers gather to prepare pierogi in the auditorium - 8:00**

**Thu. Aug. 22 - Parishioners Praying for our Parish Family - 11:30 AM**

**Sat. Aug. 24 - FEAST OF BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE**

**Sun. Aug. 25 - TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Youth Sunday in the PNCC**

**Holy Mass - 9:00 AM**

Cake & Coffee Reception after the Mass - 10:15 AM

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**COMING EVENTS (continued)**

**Mon. Aug. 26 - SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA**

**Thu. Aug. 29 - SOLEMNITY OF THE BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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**Page 1 Article (continued)**

they know His origins. Jesus then reveals Himself as the One Who makes God known. Who Jesus is, and what he does to bring others to life, is possible because God is "the Father who sent me" (John 6:44). Because of Jesus' origins in God, He alone, much more than manna, makes God known and gives life both here and hereafter. Those who believe in Jesus, the Bread of Life, will not perish as did the manna and those who lived by it.

For Israel, the manna stopped when the people of God took possession of their land, but a new "bread from heaven" continued: the Law of Moses. Jesus insists that He is the "true" bread from heaven. He does not annul God's former gift but brings it to completion. He perfects God's gift to Israel in the Sinai covenant and gives life to all who partake of His offer of Himself.

- In his worst moments of suffering Elijah lies down with hopes of never rising. After a rest, God gifts him with sustenance that revives his vocation. How do you recognize such sustenance in our world?
- Through the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul counsels us to imitate God and love as Christ loved. How does this resonate for you?
- John's first Gospel audience, people who must believe without seeing Jesus, are faced with a problem like ours today. Where do the people in the Gospel encounter the Son of Man who will give them the Bread of Life? Where do you?

**Practice of Faith**

Spend time writing about how you have sought God out in the past: How have you glorified the Lord? With whom have you extolled the Lord's Name? How have you called out to the Lord in affliction? How have you taken refuge in the Lord? Consider seeking God in a new way today.

- Last week's reading from the Letter to the Ephesians challenged us to recreate ourselves according to God's way and holiness. Today's second reading continues to guide us in how we might do that. St. Paul calls us to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving in our communities.

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**Page 1 Article (continued)**

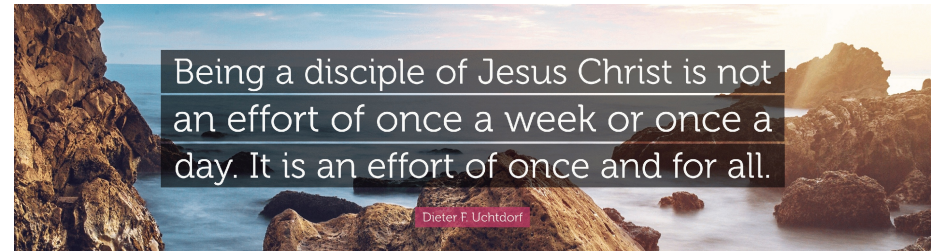
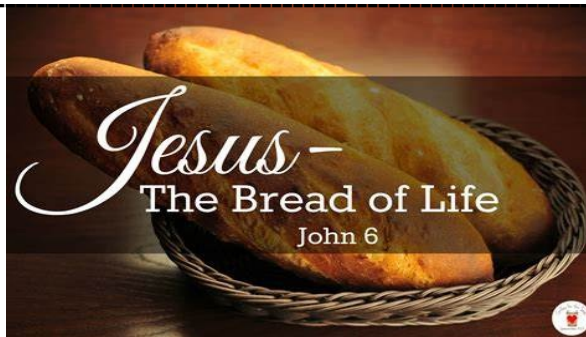
- The Church's social teaching adds to this guidance by helping us focus on specific ways we can live out holiness. Learn about this by reading church documents like "The Eleven Great Principles of the Polish National Catholic Church.
- Choose one action that demonstrates Kindness, compassion, and forgiveness that will help you be living bread for others.

**Questions**

- Have you ever reached a point of wanting to give up? What do you think brings people to this precipice?
- What restores and re-energizes you when you feel burned out and totally depleted?
- Some people are daily communicants, and others might receive Communion but once or twice a year. Why do you think some make the effort to receive Eucharist every day?

**Activities**

- In the first reading, the meal provided to Elijah enabled him to trudge off on his long journey to the mountain. Pray and discern over the next steps on your spiritual journey, and then look to the Eucharist as your strength for what will come next.
- Read about the life of Marthe Robin (b. Germany 1902; d. 1982) who lived for many years on nothing but the Eucharistic host. She was an invalid, mystic, and charismatic witness to Christ.
- After his conversion from atheism, the French writer André Frossard wrote of the privilege of receiving Eucharist in his book God Exists. I Have Met Him. Try to locate his book, or the biography of another convert. Conversion stories can be very inspiring. Each time you eat bread this week, let it remind you of the great privilege of receiving the Eucharistic bread.



**The Unsearchable Ways of God**

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"—Isaiah 43:19*

God is a God of surprises. He's a God of newness. Study the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. Noah, mocked by all for building an ark on dry land, was saved. Moses uprooted the Jewish people in Egypt and led them to a new land. This was God's unfathomable plan brought into the lives of his people. This was newness God brought into their lives. Whenever God reveals himself, he brings newness. In the beginning, as with Noah and Moses, openness to God demands our trust in him. Let God surprise you! Accept the new thing he wants to do in your life. What is the step of trust God wants you to take?

Prayer: O God, my Strength, I place my trust in you. You never forsake those who seek you. Amen.

—from the book *Three Minutes with God: Reflections and Prayers to Encourage, Inspire, and Motivate*  
by Monsignor Frank Bognanno

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**This Thursday the Church observes the Solemnity of the Assumption/Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The following article on the Solemnity is adapted from:  
<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-15>

The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated.

Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337). By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian (76-138) had leveled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it as Aelia Capitolina in honor of Jupiter.

For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city, and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan temples.

After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centered around the "Tomb of Mary," close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived.

On the hill itself was the "Place of Dormition," the spot of Mary's "falling asleep," where she had died. The "Tomb of Mary" was where she was buried.

At this time, the "Memory of Mary" was being celebrated. Later it was to become

*Continued on Page 15*



### The Assumption/Dormition (continued)

our feast of the Assumption.

For a time, the "Memory of Mary" was marked only in Palestine, but then it was extended by the emperor to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it began to be celebrated in Rome under the title of the "Falling Asleep" ("Dormitio") of the Mother of God.

Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven.

That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. (Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.)

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven."

In the eighth century, St. John Damascene was known for giving sermons at the holy places in Jerusalem. At the Tomb of Mary, he expressed the belief of the Church on the meaning of the feast: "Although the body was duly buried, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay. . . . You were transferred to your heavenly home, O Lady, Queen and Mother of God in truth."

The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.

The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

Many Polish people associate the 15th of August with the Assumption of Mary Day (*'Dzień Wniebowzięcia Najświętszej Maryi Panny'*) which is a Christian holy day well-known in Poland. However, the same day marks another celebration – the Polish Armed Forces Day (*'Święto Wojska Polskiego'*). It commemorates the Battle of Warsaw in 1920, also known as the Miracle on the Vistula (*'Cud nad Wisłą'*) – Poland's decisive victory in the Polish-Soviet war. This holiday is celebrated annually, yet the 15th of August 2021 is said to have the most events ever.

This year is the one hundred fourth anniversary of the Miracle on the Vistula (*'Cud nad Wisłą'*), one of the proudest moments in Polish history! This year's celebrations of the Polish Armed Forces Day are said to be bigger than ever.



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