

God's Field

100th Anniversary



1923 - 2023

Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 101

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Issue #11

The End and the Beginning

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

During the month of November, we come to the end of one liturgical year and the beginning of another. The first Sunday of the new liturgical year is the Sunday closest to November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. We will conclude our focus on the Gospel of Matthew in Year A and begin to make our way through the Gospel of Mark in Year B.

And yet there is also a continuity that occurs in the end of one liturgical year and the beginning of a new one. At the end of this year, we were focused on the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, in particular on a number of parables that speak to the coming kingdom of God and the lessons surrounding it. It spoke to us of the coming judgment that is awaiting us all. The weeks of Advent that are ahead for us are also a season of waiting. In fact, the word itself comes from the Latin 'Adventus' or the older 'ad-venire' which is a waiting for someone or something to come.

But things do change a bit as well. As we will go through the coming Advent season, our attention will shift from a reflection on our waiting for the Second Coming of Christ to a commemoration of the world waiting for the First Coming of Christ in His birth at the Nativity. It is still a time of waiting, but the emphasis has changed. But in this time of transition, we must also realize that we are called to consider, not just the ultimate goal of our waiting, but also what is occurring in the waiting itself.

In our time of waiting, not only for the ultimate coming of the kingdom of God in the Second Coming of

Christ, but also as we are waiting for our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, we also realize that even in these moments of expectation, Jesus is still present to us. In fact one of the ways in which the entire Christian faith is presented to us is one of 'now but not yet.' The waiting part is the 'not yet' but there is also a 'now' that we must attend to in our life of worship, prayer and work.

The coming Advent is considered to be a penitential season of the liturgical year. It is certainly a bit different from the season of Lent, but it still has a penitential aspect. So now is the time to take advantage of this penitential mood and make plans for our spiritual preparation in this coming month of December. We will have the opportunity in various places within the Church to participate in Advent spiritual retreats and Advent services of penance. Make it a point to attend these spiritual opportunities, and if you cannot, there is still a way in which you can take seriously the penitential aspect of the coming season. At the beginning of the Mass Book within our parish churches, there is a section entitled "Examination of Conscience," for you to consider. It is broken up into three major sections, "Duties towards God," "Personal Life" and "Duties towards Others." Each of these sections also gives a number of questions for us to reflect upon our own spiritual progress in living good and holy lives. This reminds us that in our daily living as well as our worship life, we must place God first, others second and ourselves last. But we also know that in each of these cases, we often fall short of what God has commanded us.

(Continued on Page 3.)

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**God’s Field — Rola Boża
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Inside this Issue

The End and the Beginning - Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky.....1
P.N.C.C. Future Direction November Message.....4
2024 Home Liturgical (Wall) Calendar Order Form6
P.N.C.C. Represented at Anglican Joint Synods7
Church Doctrine Commission Meets7
Mission & Evangelism Commission Meets8
National Liturgical Commission Meets8
Divine Providence Parish Hosts 76th United Y.M.S. of R. Convention9
United Y.M.S. of R. Annual Winter Clothing Drive9
Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese10
Central Diocese11
Eastern Diocese17
Western Diocese19
God’s Field Appeal for Christmas Greetings20
2024 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo) Order Form20

(The End and the Beginning - Continued from Page 1.)

Advent is also a time that can allow us to bring our own daily living into our times of reflection upon spiritual matters. I am sure that like me, many of you will be spending the upcoming weeks getting ready for the holidays, and certainly these are important matters for our times together with family and those whom we love. But I encourage you to bring a spiritual aspect to all of these events as well. When you are shopping for gifts, make sure that you include within them prayers for those who play an important role in your daily life. It is also a time when we can think about giving to those who might be in need during this season as well.

When we are cleaning our homes for the season, let us take the same attitude about cleaning our own lives of sins and bad habits. Hopefully we are not just cleaning in a haphazard way but rather are being thorough and careful. Let us then be thorough and careful as we examine our lives for habits of sin and selfishness that must be rooted out with the help of the sacraments.

I'm sure that we will also spend much time in decorating over the upcoming season. We will make plans about where things will go, we will then spend much time and effort in getting things just in the right places, so that our homes will be beautiful. We need to take the same attitude in adorning our lives with acts of good deeds and kindness so that we will beautify our lives and our existence, as we strive to grow closer to God and prepare ourselves for the coming of His Son.

It is also important that we realize that even in our time of waiting that we not only focus on the 'not yet' but also on the 'now' of our Catholic Christian faith. Even in this time of waiting, there are many ways in which we can encounter our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we mentioned above we do this in a sacramental way when we approach the Sacrament of Penance during penitential services and Holy Mass each Sunday. We have the opportunity within the Advent season to reflect on the people that we meet in Scripture during Advent as well: the prophets who announce the coming of the Messiah to us; John the Baptist, who reminds us to create a straight path for Jesus within our lives; and the Blessed Virgin Mary, through whom the Messiah will be born. We especially have the opportunity to encounter the coming Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar when we receive Holy Communion at Mass.

In another opportunity during the Advent season, we will gather for the Rorate Masses on early mornings during the week to strive to reflect on the life of the

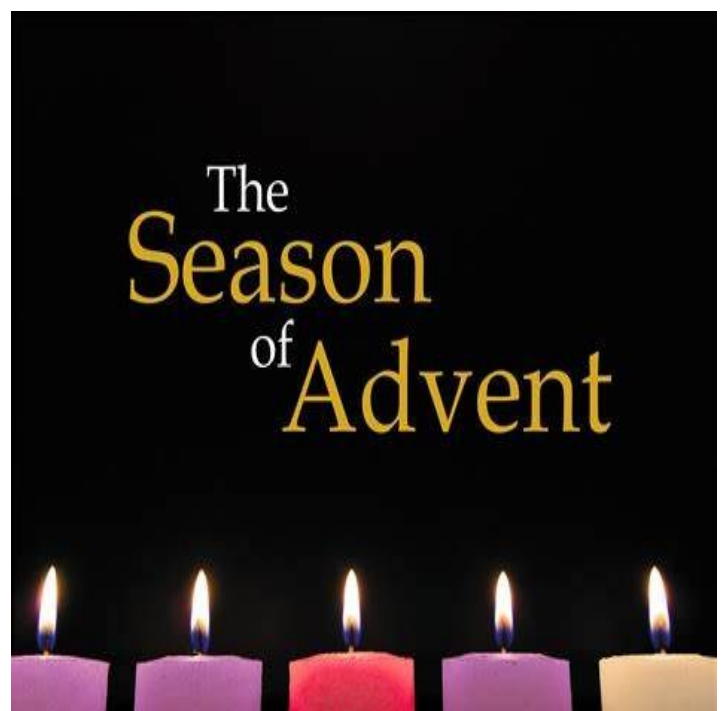
Blessed Virgin Mary as we seek to model our lives on hers and then join her in saying yes to God in serving Him and bringing Christ into the world.

During the end of the liturgical year we focus our attention on the end of all things and the coming of the kingdom of God when Jesus comes again in glory and power to judge the living and the dead. We shift our attention during Advent to our waiting for the celebration of our Lord and Savior coming to us in the Incarnation at His Nativity. Let us not lose the reality that we must also know that Jesus is with us now in our time of waiting and expectation. During this Advent that will soon be upon us, seek ways to grow closer to Christ: during the celebration of Holy Mass when we receive Him present in the Most Blessed Sacrament and in our prayer life as we find ways to bring clean hearts and souls to the celebration of His coming.

In this time of Advent longing,
We await the Savior's coming.
Filled with hope and expectation
Of the coming peace, salvation.

Send forth dew from heaven on high,
For the Savior's birth is nigh.
May the dew enrich the earth,
Yield the righteous One in birth.

In this time of Advent longing,
We await the Savior's coming.
Let us cleanse both heart and mind,
For the birth of Christ divine.



P.N.C.C. Future Direction

November 2023

Lives of True and Abiding Holiness

Introduction

As we continue with our reflections for the Future Direction Program of the Polish National Catholic Church, this month we conclude our reflections on the actual resolution portion of the accepted document of the XXVI General Synod. Over the last few months, we have reflected on how we are to put our faith into action as we embrace the sacrificial work of the Church given to us by our Lord. Now we sum up these actions to discern that each of us must live our faith by expressing “the shining example of our compassion, mercy and charity by our own lives of true and abiding holiness.”

Scripture

Colossians 3:12-14 – As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Hebrews 12:12-14 – Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

2 Corinthians 7:1 – Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Ephesians 4:22-24 – You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Reflection

Following all of the items which we acknowledge within the Resolution of the XXVI General Synod of the P.N.C.C., and after all of the things we have resolved to do and accomplish, we conclude the Resolution by acknowledging that we must go beyond the words of the written paper, and even beyond the thoughts that are brought forth, to now truly live lives of compassion, mercy and charity, lives of true and abiding holiness.

We begin by reflecting on these last words, ‘true and abiding holiness.’ The biblical concept of ‘holiness’ is that one is set apart. This is certainly true of Almighty God. He is apart from all that is created. It is in the same way that we call things that are a part of our religious life ‘holy.’ We bless items we use within worship or religious life to show that they have truly been set apart for higher uses. They are no longer to be used in mundane or lowly ways, but only rather now in the worship and service of God.

But God also call us, within creation, to be set apart for Him. It is for this reason that in the above Scripture quotes, holiness is described as a turning away from sin, or the old self, and turning instead to God. But if we are to turn away from sin to live lives of holiness, how exactly are we to accomplish this. What concrete actions should be a part of this new life of holiness?

It is here where we come to the earlier part of this resolution. We are to reflect this holiness by ‘the shining example of our compassion, mercy and charity.’ Let take a short look at each of these aspects.

In its definition compassion means to ‘suffer with.’ Now while most of us may not enjoy the requirement to suffer, yet we all know that it is in the moments of difficulty that we need someone else to accompany us on our spiritual and earthly journey. In this manner, we should seek to be ones who accompany our brothers and sisters in not only these difficult moments, but in fact at all moments. We are called then to live a life in common. It is for this reason that such high importance is placed upon the Christian Family within the P.N.C.C. It is also why our parish life is such an important part of our Catholic faith. These are not just mundane circumstances of our created life, but they are given to us by God that we may show compassion in journeying together.

Mercy deals with the concept of forgiveness. Both of these are common religious sentiments that are often found on our lips in prayer and worship. When we approach the Sacrament of Penance, before we receive

absolution the priest prays, “May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins and bring us to everlasting life.” Likewise, we should pray, “Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner,” when we receive that absolution. As a preparation to receiving Holy Communion we pray together, “Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.” But mercy and forgiveness are not only something that God extends to us, because within the Our Father we pray, “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” If we desire mercy and forgiveness within our lives, then we must also be people of mercy and forgiveness to others.

Lastly, we mention ‘charity.’ This word is essentially a synonym for love, and yet, the word ‘love’ especially for many today has an aspect of only our feelings or thinking. This is not the true meaning of love or charity. These are meant to be active concepts, so we must show love and charity, act in love and charity, treat others with love and charity.

So we see that the conclusion of our Resolution from the work of the Synod is that we will strive, as Polish National Catholic Christians, to dedicate our lives to growing closer to God and as an outpouring of that closeness, to live lives of true and abiding holiness by being people who live and show compassion, mercy, charity and love.

Action Item

As we have come to the conclusion of our reflections on the Resolution accepted at the XXVI General in October of 2022, let us pray that this document will not just be empty words of that year, but will rather be an encouragement to reflect upon our own religious life and make our own resolution to grow in holiness and devotion.

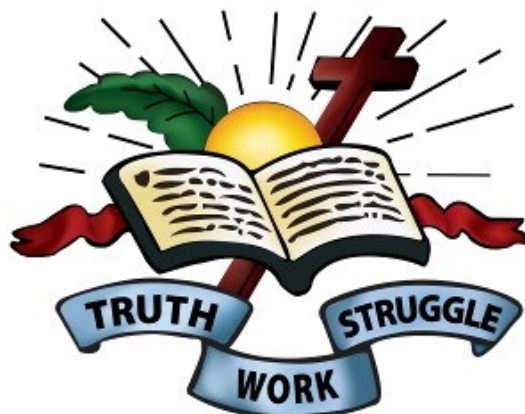
At the present time we find ourselves at the conclusion of one liturgical year and the beginning of another. These new beginnings are a wonderful time to take account of our prayer life and our worship life as well as how we are living out these religious themes each and every day.

At the Eucharist on Sundays and when you spend some time in preparatory prayer, give thought to how you are extending acts of compassion, mercy, charity and love to others. Begin with those with whom you interact each and every day. If these are lacking there, resolve, with the help of Almighty God, to make them a stronger part of your every thought and action. Then also find ways that you can begin to extend these acts of love, mercy and compassion to others, those within your parish, your neighborhood and beyond.

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel reading for the end of the liturgical year that it is the actions of love and mercy that are the measure. “The King will answer them, ‘Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:40) Let us, in response to our desire to be better disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, strive to follow His example and build the kingdom of God around us by acts of compassion, mercy, charity and love.

We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our Future Direction Committee:

- Growth and Membership
- Increase Spirituality
- Lifelong Learning
- Sacred Vocations
- Community Involvement and Presence



2024 Home Liturgical (Wall) Calendar Order Form

The Polish National Catholic Church will have full color 2024 home liturgical calendars for sale on a first-come, first-served basis. This calendar with original photographs for each month includes information concerning P.N.C.C. holy days. We urge you to order calendars for your parish or for yourself as soon as possible because our supply is very limited.

Calendar prices have remained the same as last year's; however, shipping costs have increased. The chart below can be used for calculating your costs for shipping to U.S. destinations. (For shipping outside of the U.S, please email the number of calendars you are requesting to secretarytopb@pncc.org and an email with shipping costs for your order will be sent to you.)

PLEASE NOTE that an additional \$30.00 is required for ad setup for sponsor information and specific parish information regarding Sunday services, telephone numbers, name of pastor, etc.

Please **COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM (INCLUDING NAME AND SHIPPING ADDRESS)**, below, and mail it with your payment to: **P.N.C.C. Center, Attention: Julie Orzell, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA.**

Order forms submitted without name and shipping address information are not guaranteed to be shipped.

Hurry and get your orders in because this year's stock is even more limited, and once we have run out of stock, no more will be printed! The calendars will be shipped as soon as they arrive from the printer.

Thank you for your continued support of this Church-wide endeavor. If you pick up your order at the National Church Center, there will be no shipping charge.

Quantity	Cost per Calendar	Calendar Cost Subtotal	U.S. Shipping	U.S. Total	Shipping Method
1	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$2.55	\$8.05	USPS First Class
2	\$5.50	\$11.00	\$3.75	\$14.75	USPS First Class
3	\$5.50	\$16.50	\$4.70	\$21.20	USPS Media Mail
4	\$5.50	\$22.00	\$4.70	\$26.70	USPS Media Mail
5	\$5.50	\$27.50	\$4.70	\$31.75	USPS Media Mail
6	\$5.50	\$33.00	\$5.45	\$32.20	USPS Media Mail
7	\$5.50	\$38.50	\$5.45	\$43.95	USPS Media Mail
8	\$5.50	\$44.00	\$5.45	\$49.45	USPS Media Mail
9	\$5.50	\$49.50	\$6.17	\$55.67	USPS Media Mail
10	\$5.50	\$55.00	\$6.17	\$61.17	USPS Media Mail
11	\$5.50	\$60.50	\$6.17	\$66.67	USPS Media Mail
12	\$5.50	\$66.00	\$6.17	\$72.17	USPS Media Mail
13	\$5.50	\$71.50	\$6.92	\$78.42	USPS Media Mail
14	\$5.50	\$77.00	\$6.92	\$83.92	USPS Media Mail
15	\$5.50	\$82.50	\$6.92	\$89.42	USPS Media Mail
16 - 50	\$5.50	\$88.00 - \$275.00	\$22.80	\$110.80 - \$297.80	USPS Large Flat Rate Box
51+	\$5.50	\$280.50	*Calculated at time of shipping		UPS

*An invoice for shipping costs will be included in your shipment.

Only paid calendar orders will be shipped.

If you have a sponsor paying for your calendars, please inform them that they must pay for the cost of the calendars prior to them being shipped out.

We will send invoices only for extra cost of shipping)

(You will be invoiced for shipping costs if they must be calculated at the time of packing.)

2023 P.N.C.C. Calendar Order Form

<u>Shipping Information</u>	<u># of Calendars</u>	<u>Cost of Calendars</u>	<u>Ad Fee</u> (if applicable)	<u>Shipping Cost</u> (if calculable)*	<u>Total Enclosed</u>
Name					
Address					
City, State Zip Code					

*PLEASE NOTE: We cannot predetermine the cost of shipping on orders of 51 or more calendars because this cost is calculated by weight and geographic location of recipient. You will be invoiced for this cost in your shipment.

P.N.C.C. Represented at the Anglican Joint Synods

Orlando, FL

On October 9 - 13, 2023, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski and Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich represented the Polish National Catholic Church at the 2023 Anglican Joint Synods in Orlando, FL. Bishop Sobiechowski and Fr. Sr. Nemkovich attended portions of the synods of the Anglican Catholic Church, Anglican Church in America and Anglican Providence of America. The P.N.C.C. is in dialogue with the Anglican Church, in an effort to spread the saving Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and to realize the prayer of Jesus for the unity of His Church.



Church Doctrine Commission Meets

Scranton, PA

The Church Doctrine Commission of the P.N.C.C. conducted its meeting at the National Church Center of the P.N.C.C. in Scranton, PA on Tuesday, September 26 and Wednesday, September 27, 2023.



Front: Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Rt. Rev. John Mack, **Rear:** Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill

Mission & Evangelism Commission Meets

McKeesport, PA

Members of the P.N.C.C. Mission and Evangelism Commission had a productive meeting at Holy Family Parish, McKeesport, PA, during the week of October 16th. Many thanks to the parish for the hospitality and warm welcome to their beautiful church.



Front: Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky; Second Row; Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Karen Sobiechowski; Rear: Rev. Robert Koerber, David Kost, Rev. David Rowinski, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak

National Liturgical Commission Meets

Scranton, PA

The National Liturgical Commission of the P.N.C.C. conducted its autumn meeting at the National Church Center of the P.N.C.C. in Scranton, PA, on Monday, Oct. 23, Tuesday, October 24 and Wednesday morning, October 25, 2023.



Front Row: Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich (Chair), Rev. Dr. Scott Lill (via Zoom), Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski; Second Row: Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Rev. Henryk Wos, Rev. Carmen Bolock; absent from photo: Rev. Antulio Alvarado

Divine Providence Parish Hosts 76th United Y.M.S. of R. Convention Norwich, CT

The 76th convention on the United Y.M.S. of R. was conducted on October 13 - 15, 2023. It was an inspiring and faith-filled meeting, with all 4 Dioceses of the Polish National Catholic Church being represented. It was a great look back at all that has been accomplished over the past 2 years, but it was the planning of future projects and endeavors which left everyone inspired to go out and continue the good work of the Church. Many thanks to Branch 27 in Norwich, CT for being gracious hosts for this convention.



United Y.M.S. of R. Annual Winter Clothing Drive



Greetings to all on behalf of the entire United Y.M.S. of R. Board. The United Y.M.S. of R. has had a wonderfully productive last twelve months, collecting thousands of clothing items, being part of the National Bowling Tournament in Scranton, the National Golf Tournament in Parma, OH, the Men's Retreat in Waymart, PA, the Biennial Convention in Norwich, CT, and the National Kurs Encampment, also in Waymart. The United Board is once again calling on all Parishes and Y.M.S. of R. Branches in the PNCC to *be* Christ to your community.

We are calling for a winter clothing drive at each of our parishes. Over the last half-decade or so of doing this, the response from our Church has been wonderful and increasing. A number of the parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church belong to areas that experience difficult winter weather. The Board continues a church-wide drive to accomplish something that not only helps each local community, but reflects the mission of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Though a reason to be charitable is never needed, we have decided to reward the Parish who collects the most. An informative table on the right sidebar of the flyers included in this mailing have scoring information. The winning Parish will receive a monetary gift sponsored by the United Y.M.S. of R. Board, in hopes of being used to promote a fellowship activity in you parish. 1st place will receive \$200.00, 2nd place \$150.00, and 3rd place \$100.00.

The drive begins now and will conclude January 6, 2024, the Solemnity of Our Lord's Epiphany and a period of a full seven weeks. Please post the attached flyer and poster in areas of your church for collection. You will need to appoint a chairperson and gather volunteers to organize the drive. As you receive clothing items please donate them to local charitable agencies, be sure to tally what you collect and confirm your final tally with President Nick Kazinetz after January 6. In the event you have some clothing we missed to categorize, please use your best judgement. We would love to have pictures to post on our UNITED YMS of R Facebook page and in Rola Boza. For further information or to email pictures, please contact your diocesan representatives on the flyer or President Kazinetz at (570) 604-2620 or Nkaz20@aol.com. May the items you collect reflect the love of Jesus and the call of His gospel to continue His holy mission.



Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Blessing of Animals



Holy Trinity Parish, Woodlawn, NY — Rev. Nadeem Yaqoob



Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Mt. Pleasant, PA — Rev. Dr. Joseph Mazurkiewicz

Central Diocese

St. John the Baptist P.N.C.C. 1923-2023 Frackville, PA 100th Anniversary



St. John the Baptist Parish was organized in January 1923, coming under the blessing and jurisdiction of the Most Rev. Francis Hodur, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church. The Rev. Stanley Cybulski, who was a pastor of the Holy Ghost P.N.C.C. in Shenandoah, PA, became the first pastor of the newly organized parish. The first Mass in the newly built church was celebrated on Christmas Day 1923. The rectory was built in 1925.

The parish was growing fast, and the old church was too small, and at the 1966 Annual parish meeting, a new church Building Committee was formed to go ahead with plans for the new church. Ground for the new church was broken in April 1967 and the first Mass in the new church was celebrated on Easter 1968 and Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski blessed the new church and cornerstone in June 1968. Since then, many projects have been completed.

During these 100 years, twelve priests served in this parish; Rev. Edward Tomczyk served here for 45 years (1954-1999). Rev. Robert Plichta is the thirteenth pastor of the Congregation (since November 1, 2003).

Many people have held the position of the Chair of the Parish Committee, and Ann Marie Wycheck is the current Chair.

In 2014, the Holy Ghost parish in Shenandoah, PA merged with St. John the Baptist and some members of that parish began to worship in Frackville, PA. Recently, few parishioners of St. Joseph's parish in Middleport, PA joined St. John's due to the closing of their parish.

(Continued on Page 12.)

(St. John the Baptist P.N.C.C. Frackville, PA 100th Anniversary - Continued from Page 11.)

The Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, celebrated the 100th Anniversary Mass on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at 4:00PM, with the presence of the Right Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki, Administrator of the Central Diocese. Concelebrants of the Mass were: The Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak – the Administrative Senior Priest of the Plymouth Seniorate, The Very Rev. Thaddeus J. Dymkowski, The Rev. Richard Wosiak, The Rev. Boguslaw Janiec – Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hazleton, PA, and Administrator of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in McAdoo, PA, and The Rev. Joseph R. Cyman – pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Woodland Park, NJ, who served for almost 4 years in Frackville, PA; Deacon Michael Seward and Seminarian Sean Dodd also assisted during Mass.

Ecumenical representatives from Frackville Ministerium attended the liturgy.

The State Senator David Argall, the State Representative Tim Twardzik, and Mrs. Kimberly Phillips – the Mayor of Frackville, were presented during the Anniversary Mass.



Schuylkill County Church Celebrates 100 Years

Author: Claire Alfree

Published: 5:57 PM EDT October 15, 2023

A church in Frackville celebrated a major milestone. Newswatch 16's Claire Alfree takes us to the sanctuary, where many people packed the pews in appreciation.

FRACKVILLE, Pa. — Since she was five years old, Ann Marie Halaburda Wycheck has walked through the church of St. John the Baptist Polish National Catholic Church's doors for weekly service.

"I would go with my dad and my mom, and they would have a Memorial Day service up at the cemetery, and that's where I would attend," said Ann Marie Halaburda Wycheck, St. John Parish chairperson.

After watching her dad serve the church for decades, she's carrying his torch, helping lead Mass that's celebrating the 100th anniversary of Frackville's St. John Parish.

"This congregation is small. And we kind of stick together, and everybody has the same outlook. They want to keep the doors open to this parish," said Ann Marie.

A congregation Father Robert Plichta calls his family after leaving his home in Poland to keep this church alive, "Their grandfathers, great grandfathers I may say, they built this church. They looked for the community inside this church," he said.

Having packed pews on Sunday is something Father Plichta views as a luxury.

"We try to keep our church going. To keep doors open in our church, however, it is very difficult. So many people have moved away, the children of the elders have moved away, but they still continue in ways to support this parish," said Father Plichta.

A church community that's committed to keeping a century-long legacy alive, not only in Frackville but for families like Ann Marie's, "I don't think any of the churches should close but this one because it's so deep-rooted in my family, my heart and soul is here," she said.

Hoping the tradition of going to Mass at St. John the Baptist will continue for another 100 years.



Scranton Non-profit Hits the Road with Mobile Clothing Store

By Jalen Rhodes

SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY (WBRE/WYOU) — Those who may be in need of clothing items now have the opportunity to get some for free delivered right to their home, thanks to a Scranton non-profit organization.

St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen hit the road with its new free mobile clothing store. The walk-in clothing shop offers items like sweaters, pants, and shoes.

St. Francis currently has around 500 visitors a month at their brick and mortar free clothing store, and this new closet on wheels gives them the ability to reach more people in need who may not have transportation to get to the actual store.

“That’s the idea here. we don’t care if we give out the clothing or if somebody else gives out the clothing as long as the person who needs it, gets it. and so we look at our role as facilitating that process,” said Rob Williams, the Executive Director of St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen.

The clothing store kicked off on Saturday, October 7th at Noon at St. Stanislaus P.N.C.C. Cathedral Parish in Scranton, PA. The event was held in conjunction with the parish’s monthly One Hot Meal.

“It gives us an opportunity to bring people we wouldn’t normally see together,” added Maria Hughes the Vice Chair of the Cathedral Parish Committee.

St. Francis looks to partner with other non-profit groups and churches to help give out the clothing from the trailer.





Fr. Jim “Kubus” Ploskonka attends Home Parish’s 125th Anniversary Celebration

St. Adalbert’s Parish, Dickson City, PA

On Sunday October 29th, I humbly participated in Holy Mass, the Solemn High Mass of celebrating St. Adalbert’s Parish’s 125th Anniversary. I reflected on those that had served as pastors, leaders, and parishioners. I remember where my grandfather, Tato, sat and belted out Tyle Lat at the conclusion of Polish Mass. It was tough looking up at the choir and not seeing all those who had gone before, especially my mom and dad. Spending my formative years at this legendary parish was truly a blessing and a powerful influence on my life. Father Senior Chromey, pastor of St. Adalbert’s Parish pointed out the chair that I occupied during Mass and the sedilia were donated by my grandparents, the late Julius and Mae Kijewski. I got a little weak in the knees learning this and knowing how much they loved and cherished the Church.

My friend Deacon Bob Karoscik served as Deacon of the Mass assisting Prime Bishop Mikovsky, along with Father Jim Konicki who concelebrated. Other clergy present were Father Walter Placek and my childhood chaplain Father Dennis Ruda.

A packed house filled the reception held at Colarusso’s Coal-Fired Pizza, complete with presentation of roses by the children to Prime Bishop Mikovsky, remarks by Dickson City Mayor Don Weis, Jr and greetings from United States Senator Bob Casey. After Prime Bishop gave the Keynote Address, I offered a few remarks, which I stated:

We, who call St. Adalbert’s Parish home, are filled with many emotions today. Remembering our loved ones who are not with us, both living and those who have gone onto their eternal reward. Let us remember the impetus for our beginning was to reject being under a false teaching of infallibility and other dogmas of an oppressive denomination. It was to create a community, a Polonia community, where we learned to sing, read, recite, act, run, serve, clean, paint, cook, lead with Jesus Christ as the center of the Church, St. Adalbert’s Church. The church is God’s gift to us and this community, this branch of Catholicism lovingly memorized as the P.N.C.C. It’s great to be home.

Additionally, I was honored to offer the benediction thanking God for the people, His guidance, protection, and love. A great weekend to look back and reflect and a time to regenerate the basis for my love for Christ and His Church.

By Rev. Jim Ploskonka



Baptism at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish

Dupont, PA

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, Elena Rose Conforti was baptized by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA.

Congratulations to parents Angelo and Megan Conforti and godparents Robert Bresnahan and Gianna Conforti.



Robert Bresnan, Angelo Conforti holding Elena Rose, Megan Conforti, Gianna Conforti

Eastern Diocese

Blessed Trinity Parish Happenings
Fall River, MA

BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS (THANK YOU NAVY) AND RECOGNITION OF PNU BOARD SERVICE OF KATHY AND FR. SR. ROB

KATHY 2011 - 2023
FR. SR. ROB 2007 - 2023
OCT. 1, 2023



DISCIPLISHIP ON THIS FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS - FOOD DRIVE DELIVERY TO CITIZENS FOR CITIZENS PRAYER SHAWLS, BOXES OF COATS & SWEATERS TO VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF BRISTOL COUNTY & INTERVIEW ON FRC MEDIA TV THANKS TO ALL FOR THE DONATIONS - OCT. 2, 2023



BLESSING OF ANIMALS IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI - OCT. 7, 2023



FALL RIVER PULASKI DAY COMMEMORATION AT PULASKI PRAYER - CLIFF SPOKE ABOUT PULASKI & FR. ROB OFFERED PRAYER W/ MAYOR COOGAN, STATE REP SHIVIA, FRWVC COMMANDER DENMEAD, COUNCILORS PEREIRA & RAPOSO - OCT. 15, 2023



2023 POLISH FOOD FEST - ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS! THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED US! OCT. 20 & 21 2023



2023 POLISH FOOD FEST - ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS! THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED US! OCT. 20 & 21 2023 W/ MAYOR COOGAN, REP VIOLA & COUNCILORS PEREIRA & RAPOSO



Holy Trinity Parish Monthly Veterans' Breakfast

Webster, MA

On Sunday, October 28th, Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA, served yet another delicious breakfast to local veterans, as they do each month. Thank you to everyone who helped with this very important effort. We respect our veterans for the great sacrifices that they made for our country.



Edward Nawrocki Lays Wreath at Tomb of Unknown Soldier

Arlington, VA

Congratulations to Mr. Edward Nawrocki, a longtime member of Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI. Mr. Nawrocki was chosen to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on behalf of the Rhode Island Veterans Group on October 22nd. We are proud Mr. Nawrocki is a member of the parish and Church community. We wish him good health and many God's blessings in the years to come.



Western Diocese

Blessing of the Animals

St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH

Two animal blessings were held at St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH, on Wednesday, October 4, honoring the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. The blessings were held at 6pm and 7pm, both well-attended by canine, feline, and humans alike!

Fr. Jason, Fr. Greg, and Fr. Jim all led portions of the blessing and subsequently went around the church parking lot providing an individual blessing to each animal in attendance. While there were more animals at the 6pm blessing, the 7pm blessing was decidedly more...rowdy!

Thank you to all who came to be a part of this blessing- special thanks as well to Elaine Ploskonka who provided pictures and treat bags for each animal in attendance.



Blessing of the Animals





God's Field Appeal for Christmas Greetings

It is already time to make sure that you, your organization or parish send in your annual Christmas greeting for the December issue of *God's Field*. In past years your responses to our appeals have been very enthusiastic and we sincerely hope your generosity and support will continue this year.

The cost for publishing Christmas greetings for individuals, parishes and organizations is \$20.00. Due to space constraints in the page setup of the *God's Field*, greetings are limited to up to three (3) lines of text.

ALL GREETINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENTS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 30, 2023
IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE.

Please send 3-line greetings, along with payments in the form of check or money order, payable to God's Field:

.....
God's Field - Christmas Greetings
National Church Center, P.N.C.C.
1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

2024 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo) Order Form

The cost of the 2024 Ordo is \$12.75 per book for pick-up orders or \$17.00 per book for mail orders to U.S. (Please email secretarytopb@pncc.org for Canada shipping costs prior to ordering your Ordo(s).)

To order your 2024 Ordo(s), please **COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM (INCLUDING NAME AND SHIPPING ADDRESS)**, below, and mail it with your payment to:

The Polish National Catholic Church – L R C
Attn: Secretary to Prime Bishop
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Order forms submitted without name and shipping address information are not guaranteed to be shipped. Your Ordo(s) will be shipped to you as soon as they return from the printer.

2024 ORDO Order Form			
Clergy/Parish/Individual Name and Shipping Address:			
Description of Item	# of copies	Cost per Item	Subtotal
2024 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo); \$12.75 pickup; \$17.00 w/U.S. Shipping; \$12.75 PLUS SHIPPING TO CANADA			
2024 ORDO			Total Remitted
TOTAL DUE			
Please make check (in U.S. Dollars) payable to: Polish National Catholic Church – LRC			
Thank you for your payment.			