

God's Field

100th Anniversary



1923 - 2023

Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church

Volume 101

December 2023

Issue #12

To You is Born a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors!’”

“When the angels had left them and gone to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.” (Luke 2:8-18)

As we gather for Holy Mass on the Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord, we will once again hear this Gospel reading from the Gospel of St. Luke. I suppose that we have heard this passage very many

times. Not only each year when we gather for Christmas Masses, but also in Christmas plays of students, on the Christmas cards we receive and many other places as well.

And yet even with all of this repetition, the story does not ever get old. It is always one that is fresh and new and speaks to us in new ways each time we hear it. I am also always moved to consider the various individuals within the story as well. There is the Holy Family certainly, but especially for us as Polish National Catholics we pay special attention to the shepherds, the ones to whom the message was addressed, the ones the angels spoke to.

These humble shepherds were out in the cold night in the fields tending their flocks. This was an important but also a thankless task. It was one that was, in many ways, unseen since these shepherds were far removed from the rest of society. And yet the Lord reaches out even to these on the fringes, to bring them to the full knowledge of the Incarnation.

The angels begin their message with “Do not be afraid.” This consistent message of Scripture is announced to the shepherds, and to us as well, because we, like them, are surrounded by troublesome and difficult things in the world, fallen as it is. This is especially true when we seek to make our way in the

(Continued on Page 3.)

**Email Addresses
for the
P.N.C.C. Office**

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and God's Field are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@pncc.org

Secretary to Prime Bishop—Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

P.N.C.C. Treasurer—Joan Scheuneman
executive03@pnu.org

God's Field— Rola Boza Editor—Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

**God's Field — Rola Boza
Publication Information**

The deadline for article submissions is the 1st of the month; online publication date is mid-month. Submissions received after the 1st will be included in the following month's issue.

Email articles and photos to secretarytopb@PNCC.org. If your submission was successfully delivered via email, you will receive an acknowledgement email stating that your submission was received. To ensure clarity of graphics, please send JPEG or TIFF formatted pictures with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch. **Please identify individuals in photographs or caption photographs.**

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

God's Field
Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109

Identification Statement

The Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, **GOD'S FIELD - ROLA BOZA**, is published monthly for the U.S. \$48.00; Canada \$62.00; Foreign \$87.50 per subscription year (March through February) by

**Polish National Catholic Church
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

Individual issues of *God's Field* are available for purchase from the National Church Center for \$2.00 each (pickup) or prepaid \$4.00 each (U.S.); \$5.25 each (Canada); \$7.30 (Foreign).

Send payments and address changes to:

**GOD'S FIELD
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-4109**

CONTROLLER:

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Opinions expressed in various articles published in *God's Field* do not necessarily reflect the doctrine of the P.N.C.C.

Inside this Issue

To You is Born a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord - Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky1

P.N.C.C. Future Direction December Message4

Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings.....6

The Taste of Oxygen Couple Workshop - Rev. Dr. Stan Jasiurkowski10

2024 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo) Order Form11

Advent - Jason Aaron Fox12

2024 Home Liturgical (Wall) Calendar Order Form13

United Y.M.S. of R. Annual Winter Clothing Drive14

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese15

Central Diocese18

Eastern Diocese22

Western Diocese25

(To You is Born a Savior - Continued from Page 1.)

world only relying on our own strength. It is for this reason that those words, “Do not be afraid,” are followed by “I bring you good news” and “great joy” and the ultimate announcement that the Messiah and Lord has been born into the world.

I am also moved by the reaction of these shepherds. First, they go to manger: “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place.” When the words of the Good News, the Gospel, is announced, the hearers must be drawn to place themselves in the presence of the Lord. It reminds us, my brothers and sisters, that once again the message of the birth of Christ comes to us with the call to place ourselves in the presence of Christ in the worshipping community at Holy Mass, during the hearing of the proclamation of the Gospel at Mass and especially during the reception of Holy Communion, the very presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

While they behold the Infant Christ Child, the shepherds have no words which are recorded in the Gospel of Luke, but one can imagine that they stand there in awe of this wondrous favor shown by Almighty God to His lowly people. Words failed them because they were overwhelmed by the presence of Christ, God incarnate. “So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the Child lying in the manger.” (Luke 2:16) Words fail us still when we encounter the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, Christ present in the proclamation of His Word and Christ present in His body, the Church, as it gathers for worship and the work of building the kingdom of God. Our desire should be the same as that of the shepherds. Since we know that Christ is present within His Church, we should have the strong desire to be present to Him there. And to receive and behold Him as did those shepherds.

Lastly the shepherds are impelled to go out and spread the good news. “When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this Child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.” (Luke 2:17) This call is still given to us today, to go out into the world and share the good news. Now of course it might not be in the same way it was done then by the shepherds. They had on their voices to tell people individually about the presence of Christ.

This way, first given us by the shepherds, might still well be the best way to spread and share what God has done. Each of us can tell those we encounter on a daily basis about the wonderful things God has done in Christ. And yet, we also have so many more ways today as well: in the charity we show through our good works and support; in the great ministry that is done within our parishes; in how we choose to live our personal lives and family lives on an every day basis. All of it announces the Good News that the Lord, the Messiah, is with His people.

Of course, this will not be an easy task. We should not expect it to be. The shepherds did not have an easier life because of this encounter, but in their sometimes difficult and arduous lives, they had a new comfort and joy in their daily living. They lived their lives in a new and joyful way as described in the First Letter of St. Peter. “Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.” (1 Peter 3:14b-15)

The hope that is in us, accompanies the faith and love what we share as well. We cherish and share the faith that in the Incarnation, our Lord Jesus Christ came to His people as a Child in Bethlehem and comes to us still in His Word and in the Eucharist. We cherish and share the love we express as brothers and sisters of Christ and because of this, the love we share with each other as well. And the hope we cherish and share is that Christ will remain in our hearts and the hearts of those we love and truly change us, remake us and strengthen us in His image.

Christ came to earth in the Incarnation that He could approach humanity. Through our drawing near to Christ in worship, in His Word and in the Eucharist, we then draw near to His divinity.

To the bishops of our Holy Church, to the priests and deacon and all the faithful, as well as our brothers and sisters throughout the Union of Scranton and the Nordic Catholic Church, I wish you all a blessed Christmas as we join in the our celebration of Christ’s Nativity. My good wishes and blessings for a New Year filled with faith, joy and love in the service of our Lord.

P.N.C.C. Future Direction
December 2023
100 Years of “God’s Field”



Introduction

In this last month of 2023, we stop to acknowledge that this publication, God’s Field, is celebrating 100 years of serving the Church. Although this entire year was the 101st volume of the publication, the December issue is really the beginning of the next 100 years, since the very first issue of God’s Field appeared in December of 1923.

Although we honor 100 years of the publication of God’s Field, printing within the Polish National Catholic Church goes back to its organization in 1897. Within a few weeks of the organization of St. Stanislaus Parish in Scranton, PA, Fr. Francis Hodur, together with others began to publish “Straż – The Guard.” This newspaper spread the Catholic teaching and ideas of Fr. Hodur and the nascent Polish National Catholic Church. Of course, there were also difficulties since the paper was not owed by the Church directly, so those who published it had competing loyalties to the Church and to its owners.

In 1923, this situation was remedied when the 7th Convention of the Polish National Union resolved to purchase “Straż,” and begin publishing it as the official publication of the PNU from December of that year. Along with this the Full Council of the Polish National Catholic Church at its September 1923 meeting, also resolved to begin its own official publication, “Rola Boża – God’s Field.” This newspaper too would begin publishing in December 1923.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 – I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God Who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

Luke 8:5-8, 11-15 – [Jesus said:] “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell

on good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.” As He said this, He called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen.”

[To His disciples Jesus said:] “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.”

Reflection

In the above quotes from Scripture, we reflect on the parable of the sower and the image that adorned the cover of “God’s Field” in one way or another for its entire time in print. Jesus, as the sower, is walking through the field scattering seeds which are His teachings, the Word of God. In the parable we know that some seed produces fruit through falling on good soil, other seed does not because the soil cannot accept it.

We see in this exactly what occurs in the publication and dissemination of our official newspaper, “God’s Field.” Through this publication the Church seeks to spread the message of Jesus Christ and His Holy Church far and wide. Some will embrace these teachings and through their changed lives will produce good fruit for the kingdom of God. Others may reject them entirely or dismiss them, but that does not stop the action of the sower or the mission of the Church through actions like the publication of its paper.

We notice too on the cover picture that the image is not a historical one. Jesus is not spreading the seed that is the Word of God in His own day. He is spreading it in modern times. If we look in the background of the picture we see factories, modern homes and churches. Just as in the times when our Lord walked this earth, His followers, those who accept His teachings, are God’s Field as is mentioned in Paul’s First letter to the Corinthians.

We must also acknowledge then that Jesus is still spreading His Word in our own lives right now, in each and every day of our individual lives and within the life of the Church. We, who are faithful members of the Church, are God’s Field today. And our official publication is still with us to confirm and strengthen us as we strive to produce good fruit for the kingdom of God.

Action Item

In the past number of years, newspaper printing has gone through a number of drastic changes through the entire United States and this is true for God’s Field as well. The costs of printing and mailing the newspaper had become prohibitive and so now it appears entirely online. (You still can, of course, get a hard copy by contacting the Office of the Prime Bishop.)

While some may find this change unfortunate, it also presents to us a greater opportunity. Now each and every member of the Church can share God’s Field as easily as sending an email or a text. And I encourage each and every member of the Church to do this. Our official publication, “God’s Field,” is available on the Church’s website, pncc.org. Encourage your parish to print out a few copies to make them available to those who may come to Church, either those who do not have access to the internet or those who visit seeking a church home. Share the link with your family and friends. If you ever get into a discussion with someone about what Church you attend, follow that discussion up with a sharing of “God’s Field.” They will then be able to see the good things that the Church is doing as well as hear from the bishops and others reflecting on the faith.

St. Paul’s First letter to the Corinthians states that we are God’s Field. Let us all share the publication “God’s Field” so that we can be strengthened in our faith and produce good fruit for the kingdom of God.

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

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

Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings

Celebrate Christ's birth
with your parish family!
Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski

We wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year!
Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert and Florence Nemkovich
Cape Coral, Florida

In Loving Memory of Bishop Jerry (Jarosław) Rafalko
Leslie Rafalko
May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope,
and the Peace of His Love at Christmas and always.
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski — Eastern Diocese

Western Diocese P.N.C.C.
May you have a blessed Christmas.
Clergy and Faithful

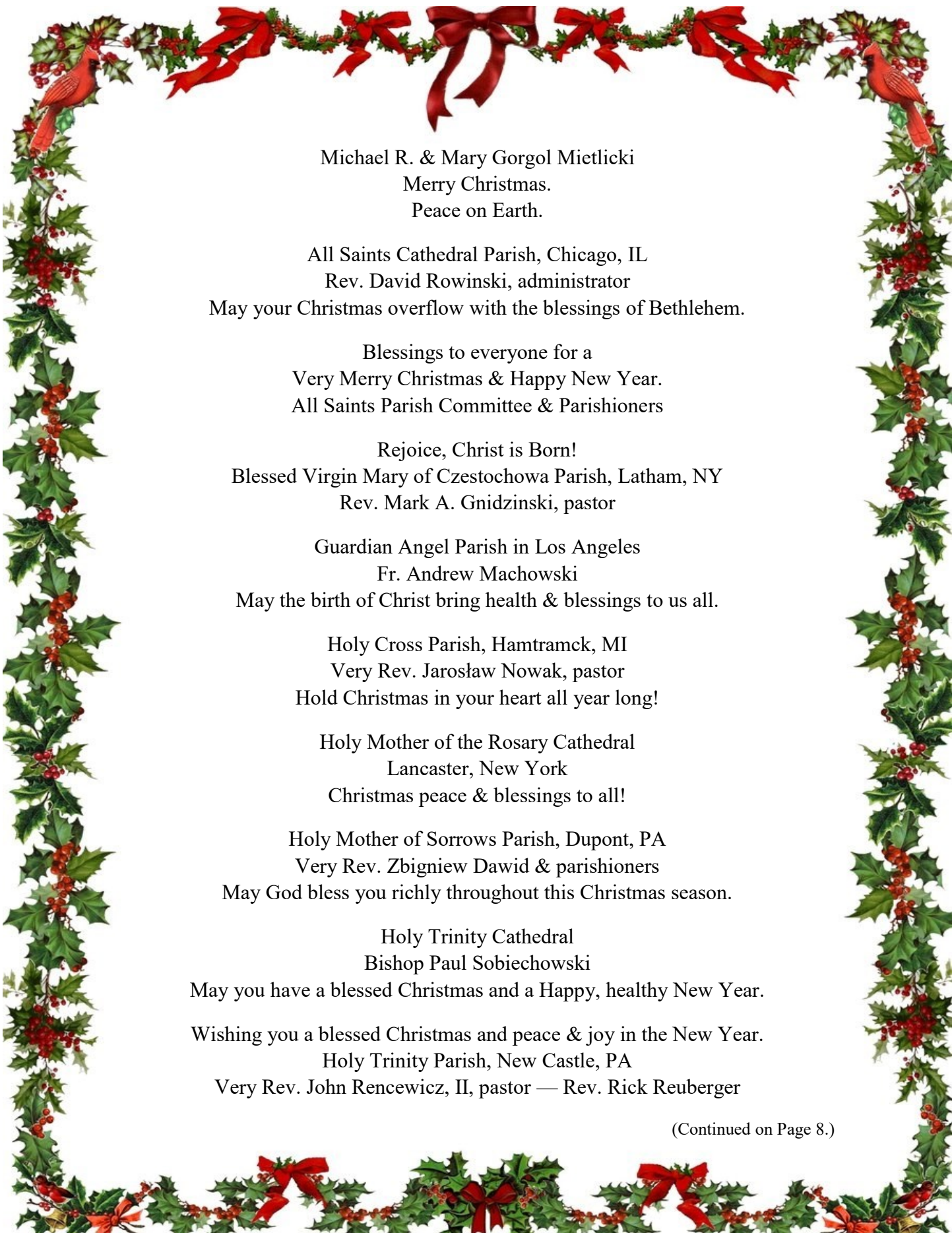
Wishing you a blessed Christmas & Christ's grace in the New Year.
Clergy Circle of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese
Bishop John Mack, Priests and Deacons

Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese
Wishing all a blessed Christmas season.
Priests and Deacon

Christmas blessings to all!
Clergy of the Plymouth Seniorate, Central Diocese, P.N.C.C.
Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak, Rev. Robert Plichta, Rev. Bogusław Janiec

“Glory to God in the highest and peace on
earth, good will toward men.” Luke 2:14
Merry Christmas from the United Y.M.S. of R.

Remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day.
Merry Christmas from Nick & Jessica Kazinetz



Michael R. & Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
Merry Christmas.
Peace on Earth.

All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL
Rev. David Rowinski, administrator
May your Christmas overflow with the blessings of Bethlehem.

Blessings to everyone for a
Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
All Saints Parish Committee & Parishioners

Rejoice, Christ is Born!
Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish, Latham, NY
Rev. Mark A. Gnidzinski, pastor

Guardian Angel Parish in Los Angeles
Fr. Andrew Machowski
May the birth of Christ bring health & blessings to us all.

Holy Cross Parish, Hamtramck, MI
Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, pastor
Hold Christmas in your heart all year long!

Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral
Lancaster, New York
Christmas peace & blessings to all!

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA
Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid & parishioners
May God bless you richly throughout this Christmas season.

Holy Trinity Cathedral
Bishop Paul Sobiechowski
May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and peace & joy in the New Year.
Holy Trinity Parish, New Castle, PA
Very Rev. John Renczewicz, II, pastor — Rev. Rick Reuberger

(Continued on Page 8.)



(Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings - Continued from Page 7.)

Holy Trinity P.N.C.C.

Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, pastor

May we all enjoy the blessings of Christmas & the coming New Year!

Marathon Mission, Marathon Key, FL

Rev. Henryk Pawelec

May the peace of the Lord be with you this Christmas and always.

Christ is born — adore Him!

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Lilly, PA

Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill, pastor

Resurrection Parish, Temperance, MI

May God bless you at Christmas and
throughout the New Year.

Have a blessed holiday season and a
healthy and Happy New Year.

St. John the Baptist P.N.C.C., Frackville, PA

Saint Joseph Parish, Davie, FL

Rev. Krzysztof Mendelewski, pastor

May the peace of the Lord be with you this Christmas and always.

St. Joseph's of Stratford Parish, Stratford, CT

Father Thomas Walsh, pastor

Blessings and peace to all, now and in the New Year.

Wishing all a blessed Christmas season!

St. Mary's Parish — South Bend, IN

Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, pastor

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN

Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. — pastor

May the light of Christ always illuminate our path!

St. Paul Parish, Belleview, FL

Rev. Mark J. Niznik & Parish

Blessing during this Christmas season to all.

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish, Reading, PA
The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich
A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA
Rev. Adam Czarnecki, pastor
May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Celebrating our 100th Anniversary
Christmas blessings from
SS Peter & Paul's P.N.C.C. McAdoo, PA

Merry Christmas & a healthy and Happy New Year
Board of Directors & Staff
of Spójnia Credit Union

We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a blessed New Year!
PNA Council 301

Feliz Navidad

Linksmų Kalėdų

Veselé Vánoce

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia



Rekindling Love and Financial Harmony: A Report from The Taste of Oxygen Couple Workshop

Rev. Dr. Stan Jasiurkowski

The air buzzed with excitement as Womack Army Medical Center civilian and military professionals sat shoulder-to-shoulder, ready to tackle the often-challenging topic of love and money. Designed specifically for couples working in military settings who face unique financial hurdles, the program delivered a powerful blend of practical guidance and emotional support, empowering participants to navigate their financial future together and grow spiritually.



The workshop was facilitated by Chaplain (LTC) Stan Jasiurkowski, a P.N.C.C. priest, working in the US Army, who, among other assignments, served as the resource manager for the US Army Chaplaincy and currently serves as the Chief of the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care at WAMC, Fort Liberty, NC. The workshop fostered an environment of openness, allowing couples to discuss their financial anxieties, aspirations, and expectations candidly. Through interactive exercises and facilitated discussions, couples learned valuable strategies for merging their financial perspectives into a cohesive plan, equipping them to manage their finances effectively. It included budgeting, debt management, and investment planning, enabling them to be responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to them by God. This enhanced financial literacy empowered them to make informed financial decisions and explore the deeper spiritual dimensions of their relationship.

Additionally, this workshop fostered open and honest communication, equipping military couples with effective tools to discuss financial matters constructively. This improved communication helped resolve conflicts peacefully and cultivate a more collaborative approach to finances. After the workshop, participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback. "This workshop was a game-changer for us," said one of the participants. "We always felt like we were on different pages financially, but now we have a shared vision and a concrete plan to achieve it. We're so much more united and confident about our future." Another couple echoed these sentiments, praising the workshop's impact on their communication. "We used to argue about money all the time," they shared. "Now, we can talk calmly and openly about our finances. It has made a world of difference in our relationship."

The Taste of Oxygen Couple Workshops offered a multitude of benefits, including reduced financial stress and anxiety. By gaining control of their finances and developing a shared vision, couples will experience a significant reduction in financial pressure and concern. This sense of security and stability will positively impact their overall well-being and strengthen their bond, fostering a stronger foundation for their relationship, anchored in mutual respect, understanding, and spiritual resilience.

Another positive outcome was related to addressing both the practical and spiritual aspects of love and money. The workshop empowered couples to build a strong financial foundation for their future. This enabled them to pursue their dreams and aspirations together, creating a life filled with joy, prosperity, and fulfillment. The Taste of Oxygen Couple Workshop went beyond simply getting on the same page with finances, venturing into the heart of what truly matters in a relationship – love, trust, and shared values. By offering a safe space for open communication and honest introspection, the workshop empowered couples to navigate the complexities of love and money with confidence and clarity, ultimately building a stronger, more fulfilling relationship that thrives both financially and spiritually.

It is possible that currently, many P.N.C.C. parishioners might experience similar challenges related to dealing with love and money due to so many variables affecting their decisions. If they are seeking to strengthen their bond and build a financially secure future together, The Taste of Oxygen Couple Workshop might offer a powerful and transformative experience. Therefore, I would like to encourage parish leadership to get certification in conducting this and other Taste of Oxygen Workshops for the benefit and growth of your faith community. It can be attained through a virtual mode at: <https://strongerfamilies.com/product/oxygen-facilitator/>. If anyone has any questions or needs more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at: sjasiurek@hotmail.com.



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.			

Advent

By Jason Aaron Fox

As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. (Psalm 42:2 [NAB])

Advent has become my favorite time of year. Eight years ago, I was at home with family in Costa Rica. Our second daughter had just been born... a new life brings many ruminations to the soul. I prayed one night for direction so I could best provide for my family and the response was not at all what I expected. I, an Evangelical at the time, dreamt about a married Bishop dressed for Advent preparing the table for the coming of our Lord. I hardly knew what to do when I awoke, but it led me to learn what a Bishop even was, with which group a real Bishop could be married, and to read about the history of the Church and theology. I found my home in the P.N.C.C.

The Church has been transformative in my life and has become a rock and source of strength for me. Advent remains my favorite season because it was Advent that the Lord used to bring me home from the confused desert of Protestantism. The joy of the expectation of the coming of our Lord continues to fill me with hope, even when my soul finds itself quite weary.

I find now that I miss the Eucharist when I stay too long away from the Lord's table. My work as a nurse often requires me to cover weekend shifts. Most notably this Advent season I have been working every weekend because a coworker who could use your prayers has been quite ill. I find myself yearning for our Lord, for the fellowship of the children of God, and for the presence of Christ in the Eucharist more now than ever before.

Advent has proven to be a season of great strengthening, a time to renew your commitment to the Lord and place everything right in your life in expectation of His coming. The seasons ebb and flow, but our Lord remains the same forever. The seasons were created for us, to guide us, to give us a path that renews our strength. Renew your strength in the Lord this Advent season and partake in the fellowship of God's people and the miracle of the Eucharist.



2024 Home Liturgical (Wall) Calendar Order Form

The Polish National Catholic Church has 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!

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.

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.

The drive begins now and will conclude January 6, 2024, the Solemnity of Our Lord's Epiphany. 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.



*God's Blessings on the Solemnity of the
Nativity of Our Lord.*

Peace and Blessings in the New Year 2024.



National Church Center

Polish National Catholic Church

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop, P.N.C.C.

Julie Orzell, Secretary to Prime Bishop, P.N.C.C.

Joan Scheuneman, Treasurer, P.N.C.C.

Blessings and Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

Supreme Council, Polish National Catholic Church



Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, P.N.C.C.****Rt. Rev. John Mack**

They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint. Isaiah 40: 31

I would imagine that nothing can bring us closer to the details of the Nativity of our Lord as the experience of having a baby due in or around Christmas. By experiencing that scenario, we know firsthand the balancing act it involves. One of our children was born on December 29th and we had a back-up plan if my wife went into labor during Christmas Eve mass. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, was faced with the same reality. First of all, this was a pregnancy unlike any other pregnancy in the history of the world. Joseph was tasked with explaining how his beloved Mary, the one to whom he was betrothed, was now with child. Joseph was faced with the hardest decision of his life. Should he divorce Mary quietly and avoid the scorn and condemnation of the entire community? Simply send her away until after the birth and then let her deal with it? Imagine the reaction of the men of the town when Joseph walked past. Visualize the wagging tongues of the women at the town well as they passed along this succulent piece of gossip. Even his own mother could not imagine the shame that would be heaped upon her and her family name because of this. Joseph pleaded with her saying: Mary and I never acted improperly – even after we were betrothed.

God did intervene, sending an angel to Joseph to reassure him that this was all part of God's plan. We all know the words. "Joseph, son of David; do not fear to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." We all know that the story doesn't get any easier later on. Joseph must make a long, arduous journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to comply with the edict of Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. Upon arriving in Bethlehem, there was no housing or basic comforts. Mary, great with child, delivers the Son of God in a stable. Following the birth and upon the arrival of the Magi from Eastern lands, Joseph is warned of the plot of Herod to eliminate any threat to his throne by slaying any male child two years and younger. Joseph is warned in a dream to leave for Egypt with Mary and the child and to stay there until the danger is past.

Just a typical birth of a child you might ask? Why couldn't God the Father just work out all these difficulties and problems ahead of time instead of all this drama? He is God after all! Yet therein lies the crux of the incarnation. The Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus the Christ, leaves His throne of grace at the right hand of God. He is sent to earth in human vesture to us and for us. As a grown man He begins His ministry to redeem and save us. We, the inhabitants of God's creation that we call earth, live in a fallen world. Therefore we will all experience to a greater or lesser extent, the hardships and trials of life that we might call the *human condition*. The one and only defense we have against all these challenges is trust and belief in the sovereignty and power of Jesus Christ.

I share with you the story of another birth. My son, Andrew and wife Brianna were expecting their second child (a girl) around November 28th. Everything was going according to plan with the pregnancy. Brianna's water broke on November 14th and off to the hospital they went for the delivery. Sherry (my wife) packed her suitcase and essentials and headed for Pittsburgh. Shelby was born at 10:16 AM that day by caesarian section, as planned. She weighed almost eight pounds. Everything was fine after the delivery. About 40 hours into her young life, Shelby was experiencing some serious issues and wasn't able to keep anything down. The knowledgeable staff made the call to transfer her to Children's Hospital in downtown Pittsburgh. What an

(Continued on Page 16.)

(Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese - Continued from Page 15.)

unexpected challenge in this young child's life. Imagine the thoughts racing through my son and daughter-in-law's hearts and heads. Andrew set out for Children's, while Brianna stayed behind where she delivered. Within a few short hours and many tests, it was determined that Shelby had a blockage in her intestines and they would have to perform surgery to try to correct it. Andrew was at Children's hospital almost continually for the next week.

A prayer chain was called into action; I notified my priests and congregations of our pressing need and they responded immediately. A candle was lit and placed at the feet of the Blessed Mother in my cathedral for her intercession to Jesus. I tried to suppress my memories and tears from 1982 when we lost our daughter +Christine at twenty-four week's gestation. She was too small to be saved. I prayed that my son and daughter-in-law would not have to face the same outcome. Thankfully, by the grace of God, the prayers of so many and the healing hands of human physicians and ultimately the hand of the Great Physician, Shelby is now home and doing well.

Two seemingly different stories of birth but perhaps not so different in so many aspects. Joseph faced many obstacles and challenges in being faithful to Mary, to his earthly family and to God, but he endured with God's grace. My son Andrew had to draw upon all his faith and strength in his young daughter's moment of crisis. He had to be Joseph in every way imaginable. I thank God for the good and loving father that he is and hope that in some small way, I had a part in it.

Moments of crisis remind us of the fact that far too often we are guilty of taking things for granted. We keep Jesus behind glass, like a fire extinguisher, and then bring Him out when there's a problem. This Advent Season has called us to think about Jesus' return in glory; to remember that we are finite human beings and that all life is so very precious. We live in very turbulent times of mistrust, violence, anger, wars and oppression. Let us make it a point in this Season of Christ's birth to remember that Jesus, God's only Son has come as a light to the nations. It is only when His light shines through us that the darkness of the present age can be conquered.

Lastly, let us give thanks for the talents and gifts of surgeons who operate on two-day old babies, for families and friends and loved ones who bring us comfort care and love. Let us be thankful for day care workers, first responders, medical and law enforcement personnel and all who serve Jesus by serving us in our daily living.

As we gather at the manger in our homes or in our churches; as we gather for our Christmas Eve Wigilia dinner; as we share the blessed opłatek, forgiving one another and asking for forgiveness for any offences we may have caused, let us hold one another ever so tightly in the love of Jesus. May we always treasure the gift that God has sent to earth for us: Emmanuel – God with us!

May God's Choicest Blessings abide with you this Christmastide and always
Bishop John E. Mack - Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese



St. Barbara's Parish Helps Local Community

Houtzdale, PA

St. Barbara's Parish in Houtzdale, PA, participated in Christmas downtown this year. We were able to give hats and gloves to over 175 local children. Thank you to our parishioners who donated and also to the Caprio family who donated 40 sets. The weather was not good so they moved it to our Parish Hall. Several local businesses participated in the event, donating items to those less fortunate. Great job by the Houtzdale Community Partnership Association, which organizes this event.



Central Diocese

Christmas Message from the Administrator of the Central Diocese, P.N.C.C. Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

Without question, the overarching message of Christmas is encapsulated in the name Immanuel, *God (is) with us*. Because of the Incarnation event, God is ever close to us in his Son, Immanuel, the Christ, Jesus. There is no distance between divinity and humanity, between God and his creation. This truth of our faith is brilliantly described within a lyric poem of Saint John of Cross where he pictures God the Father speaking to the Son:

My Son, I wish to give you
a bride who will love you.
Because of you she will deserve
to share our company,
and eat bread at our table,
the same bread I eat.

(Romance on the text *In the beginning was the Word*, section 3)

From this excerpt, you can see that our celebration of the birth of Jesus reveals that we are not alone nor separated from God. Instead, you and I, as his faithful ones, share in the communion of God's love now visible in the birth of our Saviour.

In the child Jesus, the humility and vulnerability of God is visible. As you can see, God comes without force or fear in order to avoid compelling us into a friendship imposed upon us. In the Babe of Bethlehem, God actually dresses himself in the frailty of our human flesh to transform us from within. Thus dressed, God addressed our need for healing from human sin and division to lead us to our home with him in paradise.

Celebrating Christmas from within this perspective will lead us more deeply into the mystery of faith.

Of course, at Christmas time, I'm aware that there can be both joys and struggles. There's the joy of celebrating with family, friends and the community of the Church. But there's also the struggles for those who are alone, separated from family or the community, and for those who have lost loved ones. Perhaps your aid to them in their struggles will be the gift that makes all the difference in their strife.

Wherever you will be this Christmastide, I fervently hope that each of you will know the truth of this Season, that God is not distant, and, that Jesus Christ is born for your good, for your salvation and the salvation of the whole world.

May every blessing of the Christ child come to you and your families this Christmas, and may the love and the joy and the peace of Christ be with you always.


Bishop Bernard



All Saints Parish Hosts Mohawk Valley Seniorate

Rome, NY

On Saturday, November 4th, the Mohawk Valley Seniorate gathered to give thanks to God and to celebrate His many blessings. Taking part were Holy Cross Parish in Lakeland, NY, Sacred Heart/Holy Cross Parish in New York Mills, NY, Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Latham, NY, Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Schenectady, NY, and the hosts - All Saints parish in Rome, NY.



All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Scranton Seniorate Advent Penance Service

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA

An Advent Penance Service for the Scranton Seniorate was held on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 at 11 AM at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA. Bishop Bernard Nowicki delivered a homily. Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid presided over the service. In attendance: Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Fr. Sr. William Chromey, Fr. Walter Placek, Fr. Janusz Lucarz, Sean Dodd, seminarian. Lunch followed in the Parish Hall.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish November Activities

Dupont, PA

A First Responders/Veterans Appreciation Lunch was held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA. The parish hosted: Dupont Volunteer Fire Department; Dupont Police; Pittston Township Ambulance Association; Greater Pittston Amvets; Dupont VFW POST 4909 and others. Thanks to the parishioners for preparing this event and all who attended for their service to our country & community.

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA, helped First Baptist Church in Pittston, PA, to prepare their Thanksgiving Free Community Dinner. Our church provided the hall and kitchen facilities. Our parishioners and friends worked together with the congregation of the First Baptist Church to prepare this event.



Greater Pittston Amvets with Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish presented FSB Initiative with mats, socks, blankets, hats & monetary donations. The FSB Initiative is a group of volunteers who help locate homeless veterans and get them back on their feet. Thanks to all of the ladies from the parish Mat/Blanket Ministry for making so many plastic mats and blankets for the homeless.



Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Eastern Diocese

The Preparation God Desires

Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, P.N.C.C.

Polish National Catholics are preparing for the celebration of Christmas. In every parish and in every family we are writing out Christmas cards, enclosing Christmas wafers *oplatki* and sending them to loved ones and friends. We are running to the stores or going online to find just the right presents for the special people in our lives.

Parish committees are taking wreaths out of storage and fluffing them up for hanging in our Churches. Lines of holiday lights are being tested and then hung on Christmas trees, the exteriors of homes, rectories and churches. Evergreen boughs are being hung and nativity scenes are being set up with figures of Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus, shepherds, wisemen and so many animals. Everything has to be “just right” for *Wigilia, Pasterka* and Christmas Day in Church and at home.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. A lot like Christmas past and perhaps Christmas future. But what about the most important preparation?

In addition to all of the aforementioned, have we begun the preparation of our souls to welcome our Lord and King. Jesus called the Christ?

More than a material preparation, our Lord desires to see His faithful disciples preparing a place for Him in their hearts. Jesus desires us to respond the way the Blessed Virgin Mary did, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46-47). Psalm 97 tells us, “Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart (vs. 11).

My prayer for all who read this article is that the material preparations of Christmas will not overshadow the spiritual preparation of our hearts and souls. May we all find a regular period of time for prayer, for the reading of Scripture, for the practice of good works in our community. May we join in the celebration of Holy Mass and may we spend more time in prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Jesus gave us the gift of Himself. Though Born of Mary, under the guardianship of Joseph, Jesus was, nonetheless, born for us. The announcing angel told the shepherds, “...to **you** is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). God Incarnate, was born for us because He loved us.

When we give ourselves to God, when we make a place for Him in our heart, we manifest Jesus to all we meet. For the rest of our lives, may our hearts echo the psalmist's refrain: “Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His Name; give to Him glorious praise” (vs. 1-2).

On behalf of all the clergy and faithful of the Eastern Diocese I extend greetings to all, together with wishes for a multitude of blessings this Christmas season.

Glory to the Newborn King!

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski



Subdeacon Justin Daviault Ordained to Deacon

Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT



It was a glorious day for the Eastern Diocese as Bishop Paul Sobiechowski ordained Subdeacon Justin Daviault to the Holy Order of Deacon at Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT. May God bless Deacon Justin as he serves our Lord, His holy Church and our Bishop. To God be the Glory!



Blessed Trinity Parish Feeds Local Community on Thanksgiving

Fall River, MA

Blessed Trinity Parish served over 150 turkey dinners to the local Fall River community on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to all who helped prepare, serve and donate towards this beautiful annual Thanksgiving Day meal. Dinners were also shared with the firefighters at the Niagara Fire Station. The day began with Holy Mass giving thanks for our many blessings and we were blessed to enjoy our Thanksgiving dinner with so many from our local community. A blessed day giving thanks !!



Western Diocese

**Christmas Message from the Administrator of the Western Diocese, P.N.C.C.
Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski**

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. *Isaiah 9:6*

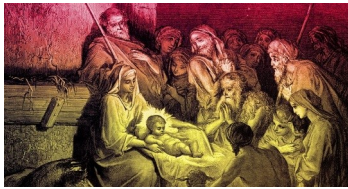
These beautiful words were written as prophecy about 700 years before the birth of Jesus took place. Within these few words we find God's actions to give us an opportunity for salvation.

Unto us a Child is born. This Child was none other than God Himself, born of Mary, born of a woman as we all are. Within these few words we are reminded of the Incarnation. God became human to save us from our sinfulness.

Unto us a Son is given. This Son is Jesus, God in human form who would give Himself as a "ransom" for many. God who personally would pay the price for our sinfulness, by giving Himself to the cross.

So during this Christmas Season, we are joyous when we remember and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus, a fulfillment of prophecy 7 centuries prior, and the completion of His giving act of salvation 33 years later.

May we give thanks that God is always faithful in His promises, and may we strive to follow Him not only this Christmas Season, but each and every day of our lives.



**Youth Group of Parroquia San Cirilo San Metodio Help Out in the Community
Chicago, IL**

In November the youth group of Parroquia San Cirilo San Metodio, Chicago, IL, distributed clothes to the families who are camping out at local police stations. The event turned out to be a great success and the youth plan to gather more warm clothes to continue to distribute them to these locations in the future.

After their hard work and good deed everyone went to a local trampoline park to relax and have fun.



Ordination to Diaconate

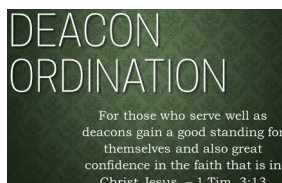
Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Administrator of the Western Diocese

On November 18, 2023, Subdeacon Douglas Scott was ordained as a Deacon in the P.N.C.C. by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky as the celebrant of Mass, who also administered the major order, at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL. Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, administrator of the Western Diocese concelebrated in the Mass. Other clergy participating were Rev. Father David Rowinski, Administrator of All Saints Cathedral, as Archdeacon, Fr. Sr. Bogumil Czaja, Rev. Father Mariusz Zochowski, Rev. Father Antulio Alvarado, Subdeacon David Talaga, and Masters of Ceremony Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk, and Rev. Fr. Jim Ploskonka. The Altar Servers were very helpful and provided valuable assistance! Deacon Doug's entire family participated in the service as well through various roles of cantor, lector, serving at the Altar, and providing vocals for the music.

The previous day, Subdeacon Doug participated in a day of retreat, contemplation, reflection, canonical exams, and rehearsal, all in preparation for his ordination. These events were led by Prime Bishop Anthony, Fr. Sr. John, Fr. Jim, Fr. Sr. Charles, and Fr. David. Following the ordination was a wonderful reception in the fellowship hall, where family, parishioners, and clergy could enjoy some delicious food and time for visiting.

Deacon Doug has a big heart and will do anything to be helpful at the Cathedral and for parishioners, resulting in an outpouring of love and support on his day of ordination. All Saints Cathedral and its lay and clerical leadership were wonderful hosts for both days, and provided a warm and spirit-filled environment for all of the events!

May we continue to serve God and His people!



St. Mary's Parish Celebrates 100th Anniversary

West Allis, WI

Congratulations to St. Mary's Parish and pastor Fr. Carlos Aranda on the celebration of the parish's 100th Anniversary! A celebration of this momentous anniversary was held at the parish on Saturday, November 11th, starting with a Holy Mass in the afternoon followed by a reception.

We are thankful for all the blessings God has poured onto St. Mary's in their first 100 years and pray that God continues to bless them in the next 100.



Operation Christmas Child at St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH

St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH culminated its annual collection of filled "shoeboxes" for Operation Christmas Child on Sunday, November 12. Ms. Evonne Pryer has long been in charge of this charitable event, which is under the Samaritan's Purse organization. The collection of boxes and monetary donations usually runs from late September until about 6 weeks out from Christmas, providing enough shipping time. The boxes go around the world, providing a small portion of Christmas joy to children who may otherwise have little. Thank you to Evonne and all who supported this venture.



Wesołych Świąt