

Pre-Lent Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

This year due to the calculations of the calendar, the celebration of Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord, is quite early, the last week of March. And, as a consequence of this, the season of Lent which precedes it, and the season of Pre-Lent which precedes that is also quite early. On the last Sunday of January, only slightly more than a month after Christmas, the season of Pre-Lent begins.

On this upcoming first Sunday of the Pre-Lenten season, we will hear a Gospel reading from the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark. We have essentially been reading within this first chapter of Mark since the end of the Christmas and Epiphany season and we continue right from that into the Gospel readings for Pre-Lent. In Mark's Gospel, right after the preaching of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus, we hear the beginning of Jesus' ministry in His call to "repent and believe in the good news," and then His call of the first disciples.

Following this we encounter a number of healings of Jesus in this Gospel, including the one we have for this first Sunday of Pre-Lent.

The Gospel of Mark continues: 'A leper approached Jesus with a request, kneeling down as he addressed Him: "If You will to do so, You can cure me." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out His hand, touched him, and said: "I do will it. Be cured." The leprosy left him then and there, and he was cured. Jesus gave him a stern warning and sent him on his way. "Go off and present yourself to the priest and offer for your cure what Moses prescribed. That should be a proof for them." The man went off and began to proclaim the whole matter freely, making it no longer possible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He stayed in desert places; yet people kept coming to Him from all sides.' (Mark 1:40-45)

While not wanting to get into the issues that are raised here in regards to an understanding of exactly what the skin diseases we are speaking about in this passage are, there is certainly a reality and an attitude that must be considered. A man comes to Jesus with a condition that he cannot cure himself. It is entirely beyond his capacity to make himself pure and whole. But in this condition, he turns to Jesus with extreme confidence. "If You will to do so. You can cure me." (Mark 1:40b) And of course we see that Jesus does embrace this man and with His touch cures him. As we begin this season of Pre-Lent we are called to have much the same attitude about our own lives and our own condition. During the Lenten season that is to come, we will focus on the passion and death of Jesus which won for us the forgiveness of our sins and healing of our lives, but then we will do this in a very communal and public way. Together we will gather for devotions like Stations of the Cross. Together we will celebrate penitential devotions. Together we will abstain and fast, pray and give. But the Pre-Lenten season allows us to enter into this reality with the right attitude.

As people in the western culture, and maybe even more so as Americans, we are taught and encouraged to be self-reliant. 'Pull yourself up by your own boot straps' is a common mantra that we say to ourselves

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Email Addresses for the	<i>God's Field — Rola Boża</i> Publication Information				
P.N.C.C. Office The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and God's Field are:	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.				
Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky pbmikovsky@pncc.org	Email articles and photos to secretarytopb@PNCC.org. If your submission was successfully delivered via email, you will receive an acknowledgement email stat-				
Secretary to Prime Bishop—Julie Orzell secretarytopb@pncc.org	ing that your submission was received. To ensure clari- ty of graphics, please send JPEG or TIFF formatted pic- tures with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch.				
P.N.C.C. Treasurer—Joan Scheuneman executive03@pnu.org	Please identify individuals in photographs or cap- tion photographs.Typewritten articles and photographs may be				
God's Field– Rola Boża Editor—Julie Orzell secretarytopb@pncc.org	submitted to: God's Field				
Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.	Polish National Catholic Church 1006 Pittston Avenue Scranton, PA 18505-4109				
Identification Statement The Official Publication of the Polish National	Send payments and address changes to:				

The Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church, GOD'S FIELD - ROLA BOŻA, is published monthly for the U.S. <u>\$48.00</u>; Canada <u>\$62.00</u>; Foreign <u>\$87.50 per subscription year</u> (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).

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

CONTROLLER:

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when we enter into any challenging situation. But when considering our human nature, our spiritual lives and our own reality as people we must rather take the attitude of this man with leprosy. We must come to Jesus; we cannot bring holiness to ourselves. This is really the individual work of the Pre-Lenten season. I recommend to each and every one of you a work written in 2022 by Fr. Dr. Scott Lill for our individual preparations during the Pre-Lent season. (For those interested, it is available from the Office of the Prime Bishop. Send an email request to: pbmikovsky@pncc.org and you will be emailed the booklet which you can print out and use.)

Within the publication the two and a half weeks of Pre-Lent are broken up into a 'Week of Recollection,' a 'Week of Self-examination' and finally in the few days before Ash Wednesday, 'The Days of Decision.' Within this preparation then, we stand at the threshold of Lent, ready to enter fully into that season of repentance and change.

The booklet states: "The Church's Pre-Lenten liturgical life leads the way, sets the tone and provides direction as to how we should also proceed in our personal preparations for Lent. Drawing upon the beautiful spiritual traditions of both East and West, the booklet offers a simple daily preparation program that each of us may employ so that the liturgy may indeed take Pre-Lenten root deep within us, begin to bud during Holy Lent, and burst forth into new life at Easter. Remember that our Easter joy is increased proportional to our spiritual struggles during Lent, and this, in turn, is best undergirded by the interior provisions made during Pre-Lent."

So my brothers and sisters, as we enter into this Pre-Lenten season, come each day to your prayers and devotions with the attitude of the man in the Gospel. Realize that you need Jesus in your life. Realize that only through and in Him can we reach our full stature as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ. Come to Him, casting your life before His feet and proclaim with the leprous man, "Jesus, if You will to do so, You can cure me." Say these words knowing that Jesus can cure and heal you from your sin and selfishness. Jesus can heal you from the challenges that you cannot overcome. He will guide you through the difficulties that you are not strong enough to face on your own.

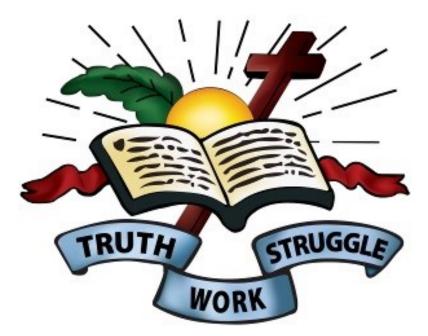
I encourage you all during Pre-Lent, say these words of trust and submission. Say them often. During this season of Pre-Lent make personal spiritual preparations to be ready to do the hard work of prayer, fasting and almsgiving within Lent. Say these words so that you will not be fooling yourself into thinking that you can accomplish any of this apart from Jesus.

"Jesus, if You will do to so, You can cure me." These are not words which try to please, to plead or to convince. We are not worthy of Christ's mercy and there is no argument to make that will intellectually convince Him. We seek Christ's mercy, because He has told us that He loves us and because of that love to ask. So we ask Him, loving as best we can, to show His mercy once again to cure us, heal us and make us whole.



Financial Obligations for the Parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church

(For the Year 2024)



Each parish and each member of the Polish National Catholic Church has material obligations to fulfill in support of the ministry and mission of the Church. This article highlights the financial requirements of the Church as they stand at the present time. These include the decisions that were made at the last General Synod held in October 2018 and they were not changed at the most recent 2022 General Synod.

All are reminded to review Regulation 11 of the 2022 P.N.C.C. Constitution, Bylaws and Code of Faith (formerly Article XXI) which addresses Church Funds. Each parish of this Church must act in accordance with this portion of the Constitution.

General Fund Dues

During the XXIV General Synod held in October of 2014 the delegates voted to set the General Fund Dues at \$100.00 per member. This amount was unchanged by the 2018 and 2022 General Synods. This figure will continue until the next General Synod in 2026. An important point for the parish to remember, noted in Regulation 11, Section 3 (formerly Article XXI, Section 4), is that the Parish is responsible to contribute \$100.00 for each member on its parish roll. Although the Parish may collect funds from its membership in various ways, either through direct assessment (dues), or Sunday collections or a pledge system, the \$100.00 is the responsibility of the Parish for each member. According to Regulation 11, Section 9 (formerly Article XXI, Section 16) of the Constitution, these funds that are collected must be submitted to their Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

6% Levy

Along with the above obligation, each parish must also submit funds according to the 6% levy. According to Regulation 11, Section 2 (formerly Article XXI, Section 3) of the Constitution, six percent (6%) of Parish Dues (counting only that part kept by the Parish), regular Sunday and Holy Day collections must be submitted to the National Church via their Diocesan Treasurers. According to Regulation 11, Section 9 (formerly Article XXI, Section 16) of the Constitution this 6% Levy on funds that are collected is to be submitted to their Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

Special Collections

A number of special collections are identified either in the Constitution and Laws of the Polish National Catholic Church or are mandated through Synodal Action of the Church.

The following Special National Collections are to be taken in every parish of the Polish National Catholic Church for the following purposes:

January 7, 2024	—	For the Mission Fund
January 28, 2024	_	Music Scholarship Sunday – For the Music Scholarship Fund
February 4, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
March 3, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
March 10, 2024	_	Institution of the P.N.C.C. – For the National Church Center
April 7, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
May 5, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
June 2, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
June 16, 2024	_	Father's Day – For the Clergy Pension Fund
July 7, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
August 4, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
August 25, 2024	_	Youth Sunday – For the Youth Fund
September 1, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
September 8, 2024	_	Solemnity – Brotherly Love – For the Bp. Hodur Retreat Center
October 6, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
October 20, 2024	_	Heritage Sunday – Outreach to Poland Collection
November 3, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
December 1, 2024	_	For the Mission Fund
December 29, 2024	_	Solemnity – Humble Shepherds – For the Seminary Fund
January 5, 2025	_	For the Mission Fund

The funds from these collections are also to be submitted by the Parishes to their Diocesan Treasurers. According to Regulation 11, Section 8 (formerly Article XXI, Section 17) the Treasurer of each Diocese is to forward the appropriate funds to the Treasurer of the P.N.C.C. within 30 days.

Parishes are also reminded, according to Regulation 11, Section 9 (formerly Article XXI, Section 16) of the Constitution that "all monies collected and received by a Parish Committee from the sources of income in Section 3 of this Article (i.e. General Fund Dues, 6% Fund, and Special Collections) shall be paid quarterly to its Diocesan Treasurer.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the collecting or payment of these funds to the Diocesan Treasurers or the National Church, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Prime Bishop.

Closing of the Church's Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year of the Church ends on February 29, 2024. Each parish must submit the funds collected from the various sources (General Fund Dues, 6% Levy and Special Collections) in 2023 to their Diocesan Treasurer who will then forward the correct portion to the National Church Center. To be included in the 2023-2024 financial statements of the Church, funds must be remitted to the Diocesan Treasurers and then transferred to the National Church Offices by February 29, 2024.

P.N.C.C. Future Direction January 2024 Prayer

Introduction

As we begin this new year of 2024, the Future Direction writings will focus some of this year's reflections on the various aspects of our Catholic Christianity, especially as it concerns our daily living. We will reflect on the catechism and various liturgical aspects of the Church, to see how we can enter deeper into our Catholic faith, live within our own spiritual lives and begin to change ourselves as we grow ever closer to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Scripture

- Matthew 6:6-13 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will repay you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.
- Philippians 4:6-7 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Reflection

We begin our reflection by examining what the PNCC Catechism says concerning Prayer. There are quite a number of questions in the section on prayer but it begins with two very important ones. First the question, "What is prayer?" With the answer given, "Prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God. It is our talking to God and listening to God."

Immediately this may be a bit of a difference for us. Our individual prayer life is so very often our talking to God. We find ourselves thanking Him for the blessings we have received, asking for continued blessings upon ourselves and our loved ones, and finally asking for things that we desire or asking for favorable outcomes. This is exactly what the second question within the Catechism asks: "Why do we pray?" With the answer: "1) To adore God, expressing our love and loyalty to Him; 2) To thank Him for His gifts to us; 3) To beg His pardon for our sins and shortcomings; and 4) To ask His blessings and graces for ourselves and others."

But this talking to God is only half of the reality. Within our prayer life we are to listen to God as well. Certainly this may be a bit harder of a discipline and take a bit more of our resolve, but God does continually speak to us if only we have the faith and openness to hear. Within this discipline of prayer we may need to spend some time in silence when we are confronted in places and times when we need direction. We can read the Scriptures, those from the most recent Sunday, or the daily readings, or any part of the Scriptures and meditate on what God is speaking to us in that passage. Also, as Polish National Catholics, the homilies at Holy Mass and other devotions are a sacramental action, which means that in and through them we have an encounter with Jesus Christ and receive His grace. I am always moved in this regard by a prayer of Bishop Hodur that can be said before a homily, both by the one preaching as well as with similar words by the hearers: "Help me, Holy Spirit, so that my words should not fall in vain on the hearts of those listening, but that they might ignite a sacred fire of love for Jesus Christ. Intercede for me, O Mother of God." This sacred fire is the presence of Christ within the heart, the whisperings of almighty God, to guide and direct our lives on the paths of righteousness.

We must also remind ourselves that our life of prayer can go beyond those moments when we kneel either at Church or at home and direct our words and thoughts to God. Again, the Catechism asks: "How can we pray?" with the answer: "We can pray through thought, word and deed. In other words our prayer can involve everything that we are. We often think of this phrase "in thought, word and deed" in the confession of our sins, but if we give this matter some thought, we realize that if we can fall away from God in these areas of our life in sin, then they also can serve as the areas of our life where we seek to more fully follow God.

A last question to consider is: "Is prayer necessary to salvation?" with the answer: "Prayer is absolutely necessary to salvation because we need God's help to achieve the purpose of life." In reflecting on this answer it is easy to get lost if we have a too narrow definition of what prayer is. If we ask questions like, how many minutes or hours a day must we spend reciting prayers while on our knees in church or at home, we are missing the point.

The situation is that moments of mental or verbal prayer at church or at home are vitally important, but through them we must strive to make all of our lives into moments of connection to God. St. Paul tells us this in the quote above when he says: "Pray without ceasing." One final question in the Catechism says this in regard to a living prayer with the answer: "When we strive to be worthy of God's love and live according to His will that is a living prayer."

Action Item

Be intentional concerning your prayer life. Begin with the regulated times of prayer as we gather for Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Strive not only to speak to God in your prayers, but also to listen for God speaking to you through the readings, the homily and the prayers.

Then find ways to expand upon this as well. There are certainly many regimens of prayer that can be adopted. The PNCC Prayer Book has a set of Morning and Evening Prayers that can be adopted. There is also the tradition of praying the Liturgy of the Hours. This can be a little more daunting, but there are free apps on-line if you don't want to purchase a number of books. Another regimen of prayer is to spend some daily time in the reading of Scripture and reflecting on its meaning for your life at that moment.

Most importantly, reflect on those things that you do every day and in and through them seek to connect to God. Pray at the beginning of every task. Offer a short prayer of thanksgiving at its conclusion. Ask God for blessings and guidance when decisions must be made, or challenges faced. Remember the words of St. Paul, "Pray without ceasing." Make your whole life a prayer to God. Serve Him in every action.

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



National United Choirs Music Scholarship Sunday

Music Scholarship Sunday is January 28, 2024. Hopefully your parish will celebrate this special Sunday by recognizing those who provide the music for your liturgies, as well as take up the collection for the program, as authorized by Synodal vote.

As an individual, please consider donating to this worthy program. Since it began in the previous century, \$353,085.00 has been awarded to 1136 members of our P.N.C.C. Your donations have helped so many people improve their musical skills to the benefit of our beloved parishes. Our church is blessed to have this scholar-ship program and to have so many past and present recipients still providing their talents for the Glory of God!

Donations can also be made on a year-round basis by sending your check to the NUC treasurer,

Liz Kaniewski NUC Treasurer 7719 W. Coventry Drive Franklin, WI 53132

Just write in the memo line that the donation is for the scholarship fund.

Parish Treasurers: Please submit your parish donations to the scholarship fund to your diocesan treasurer by the end of the first quarter so they can be forwarded in a timely manner for use in the 2024 awards. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

National United Choirs 2024 Music Scholarship Awards

Applications are now available! Are you currently taking paid music lessons for organ, piano, voice, or another instrument? Do you participate in the music ministry of your parish? If so, you may be eligible for a Music Scholarship from the National United Choirs.

All necessary criteria, instructions and forms can be downloaded from the scholarship website: <u>www.nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com</u> Instructions and necessary forms are revised yearly due to technology and music changes Please use the **current** website publications to insure you will be following the proper instructions. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2024**.

Pastors, Organists, and P.N.C.C. members: Please encourage those eligible in your parish to apply to this very rewarding program that has provided financial assistance to so many people in the P.N.C.C. over the past six decades.

Any questions can be submitted to: Cathy A. Bilinski

Music Scholarship Administrator nucscholarship@gmail.com

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, firstserved 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 <u>secretarytopb@pncc.org</u> 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 <u>with your payment</u> 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!

Quantity	<u>Cost per</u> <u>Calendar</u>	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
<mark>51+</mark>	<mark>\$5.50</mark>	<mark>\$280.50</mark>	*Calculated at time of shipping		UPS

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

<u>Only paid calendar orders will be shipped</u>. 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

Shipping Information	<u># of</u> <u>Calendars</u>	<u>Cost of</u> <u>Calendars</u>	<u>Ad Fee</u> (if applicable)	<u>Shipping</u> <u>Cost</u> (if calculable)*	<u>Total</u> Enclosed
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.

The Foundation of a Healthy Marriage

Rev. Dr. Stan Jasiurkowski

The series of upcoming articles draws upon counseling theory and insights gathered from countless hours of couples' pastoral counseling that I conducted in my military career as a chaplain. I aim to provide a glimpse into the key factors that contribute to a successful marriage. Therefore, in the future, I will touch on the following crucial topics: communication, conflict resolution in marriage, maintaining intimacy and love, the role of forgiveness in a healthy marriage, parenting, instilling our P.N.C.C. values in children, the role of discipline in Christian parenting, and raising emotionally healthy children. This is my ambitious plan for future publications.

Understanding the Theological Perspective on Marriage

The Polish National Catholic Church views marriage as a sacred sacrament, a covenant between a man and a woman that signifies their lifelong commitment to love and serve God, each other, and their family. Marriage represents a lifelong commitment built upon love, mutual respect, and selflessness, mirroring Christ's sacrificial love for the Church (Ephesians 5:25-26). As the Scripture stresses, this sacrament represents the unity of two individuals, a man, and a woman, becoming one flesh (Genesis 2:24). This unity extends beyond the physical realm, encompassing a spiritual and emotional oneness that reflects the love between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:31-32). This theological perspective emphasizes a few important aspects that have deep practical implications, and I will elaborate on them below.

Open and honest communication is essential for a Christ-centered marriage to thrive. Just as God calls us to be vulnerable and transparent, couples are encouraged to create a safe space where they can freely share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. This foundation of trust is built through active listening, compassionate understanding, and expressing needs with love and respect. By avoiding hurtful or defensive words, couples can strengthen their bond, deepen their understanding, and create a sanctuary that reflects God's plan for unity and love.

It is unfortunate, but many couples inevitably experience moments of disappointment and hurt. Just as God forgives us, we are called to forgive each other. This act of forgiveness goes beyond mere words and reaches into the depths of our hearts, offering healing and reconciliation. By releasing resentment and embracing compassion, we pave the way for a stronger bond, a renewed sense of trust, and a love that reflects the grace and forgiveness of our Heavenly Father. Through forgiveness, we not only build a stronger marriage but also embody the very essence of Christ's love, proving that even amidst our flaws, forgiveness and restoration are always possible.

Let me share with you one of the countless positive stories from my counseling encounters with soldiers. After deployment to the Middle East, one of my soldiers came with his wife to my office, and they both looked like a stormy day. (For the purpose of this article, the couple will be referred to as Michael and Anna; not their real names.). However, it was my privilege to walk alongside them through the storm of infidelity and into the sunshine of forgiveness. They told me, "Chaplain, we want to work hard to reconcile and save our marriage for our kids, but we don't know how. Can you guide us?"

I offered them no quick fixes, for I knew that true healing would not come from platitudes but from raw honesty and vulnerability. Forgiveness, I told them, is a sacred gift.

However, it also involves peeling back the layers of pain, letting the light of God's grace drip in, and mending the shattered trust and broken individuals. At that point, Anna's voice broke as she shared her emotional pain of the betrayal which was still raw even after months. Michael, with regret weighing heavily in his eyes, confessed his wrongdoings and started making efforts to rebuild trust.

Days turned into weeks, filled with tear-streaked confessions, and apologies, slowly rebuilding communication leading to reconciliation. Each step Anna took towards forgiveness was a battle against resentment's grip. With every act of atonement, Michael gradually started proving himself trustworthy. Then one day, I saw them walking into my office, hand in hand, their shared smile speaking the unspoken language of trust reigniting in their eyes. This view reminded me that forgiveness is not about erasing or forgetting the past, but about choosing to nurture the love that remains within us. And sometimes, as a priest, my role is simply to offer a steady presence and humbly witness the subtle miracles that blossom under divine grace.

While their journey wasn't complete, signs of progress emerged even amongst the difficulties. New possibilities arose, demonstrating the powerful force of forgiveness and love in overcoming challenging obstacles. Just when you think love has withered away, it can surprise you, like seeing a blooming flower in a desert. Through accepting trust, embracing vulnerability, and choosing forgiveness, even severely damaged relationships can rebuild affection and unity.

On the ground of shared faith, a marriage can flourish and thrive. Growing together in faith provides a deeper connection, purpose, and shared values, anchoring your marriage in the foundation of God's love. Couples nurture a spirit where their love thrives through joint prayer, scripture study, attending church together, and performing acts of kindness. This shared journey strengthens their bond, offers comfort in times of need, and provides a profound sense of purpose beyond the everyday. Ultimately, by cultivating a shared faith, couples create a haven of love and devotion, reflecting the divine light of God in their union.

Within the Christian framework, I would like to remind the biblical concept of submission, widely misunderstood and neglected. At its core, vertically, submission is the voluntary act of yielding one's will to God's authority and aligning one's life with His purposes. Horizontally, the Christian concept of submission, emphasizes putting the needs of others before your own, out of love and respect. It's not about dominance or hierarchy but about humility and service. Imagine teammates who prioritize the success of the whole team instead of individual glory. That is the essence of Christian submission. It is not about servility, but rather about both spouses negotiating their desires and agendas to serve and uplift each other. Through open communication and shared decision-making, a beautiful harmony is created, where individual strengths complement one another and decisions are guided by a shared vision for their journey together. This mutual respect fosters a collaborative environment where both voices are heard and valued, resulting in a marriage that reflects harmonious unity in diversity – a testament to God's design for love and partnership.

The Psychological Aspects of a Successful Marriage

Dr. John Gottman, a highly respected and widely recognized expert in the field of marriage research, has extensively studied and identified four crucial elements that play a significant role in fostering a strong and flourishing marital relationship. These key factors contribute to the overall health and success of a marriage. Understanding these factors is important as they can serve as valuable guidelines for couples seeking to enhance and maintain a fulfilling marriage.

The first factor is emotional Intelligence. It plays a pivotal role in navigating conflicts and fostering a nurturing atmosphere. Emotional intelligence encompasses the ability to acknowledge and regulate your own emotions, empathize with your spouse's emotions, and cultivate effective stress management strategies. By honing these skills, individuals can foster healthier communication, deepen understanding, and create a harmonious partnership.

According to Dr. Gottman, the second factor is shared meaning. When couples share values, goals, and beliefs it creates a strong sense of purpose and direction for the marriage. It allows them to align their thoughts, ideas, and aspirations, which ultimately strengthens their bond. Additionally, when partners share religious beliefs, it adds a layer of connection and understanding, as they can find solace and support in their shared faith. In our diverse society, cultural values also play a significant role in creating shared meaning within a marriage. Spouses embracing and celebrating each other's cultural backgrounds foster a deep sense of respect and appreciation, contributing to a rich and diverse marital experience. Furthermore, having a common vision for the future helps couples navigate challenges and make decisions together, as they are grounded in a shared understanding of what they want to achieve and accomplish as a team.

The third factor, Dr. Gottman calls positive sentiment override. Literature and experience show that supportive relationships thrive when you nurture a positive attitude towards your partner, even during

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(The Foundation of a Healthy Marriage- Continued from Page 11.)

disagreements. This involves intentionally seeking out and appreciating the positive aspects of your relationship. It is about acknowledging the things your partner does well and expressing gratitude for them very often. Additionally, it seems important to regularly reflect on the reasons why you fell in love with your spouse and

remind yourself of those special moments and qualities that initially drew you to him or her. By actively maintaining a positive outlook and focusing on the strengths of your relationship, you can create a nurturing and loving environment that strengthens your bond even during challenging times.

The last one, he calls acceptance and validation. When partners actively demonstrate acceptance and appreciation, they foster a robust sense of security and connection in the relationship. It is important to actively listen to your partner and show genuine interest in his or her thoughts and emotions. By doing so, you can non-judgmentally accept the partner's feelings and experiences, making them feel understood and valued. Additionally, offering words of affirmation and encouragement can further strengthen the bond between you and your partner, boosting his or her confidence and fostering a supportive environment.

Practical Tips for Building a Strong Marital Foundation

Building a strong and lasting marital foundation is a journey that demands consistent effort, unwavering commitment, and a deep understanding of one another. Through my experience in providing couples' pastoral counseling, I have gathered numerous practical tips that can help guide couples toward a fulfilling and harmonious relationship. These invaluable insights have been derived from countless hours of listening, guiding, and supporting couples in their pursuit of a strong and thriving marriage. By implementing these tried-and-tested strategies, couples can establish a solid and unbreakable bond that will withstand the tests of time and challenges that may arise along their journey together.

First of all, active listening is a crucial aspect of effective communication. It involves focusing on your spouse's words and emotions without interrupting. To ensure a true understanding of their perspective, ask clarifying questions. I encourage you to express your needs and feelings using "I" statements, avoiding accusatory language that can lead to defensiveness and escalation. By scheduling regular check-ins, both partners can freely share their thoughts and feelings, which builds a bridge of understanding and strengthens the foundation of your relationship. This open and honest communication fosters trust, promotes emotional connection, and enables you to navigate life's joys and challenges together as a united team. Regardless of the circumstances, always remember that you are one team playing together – not against each other. I will dedicate a separate article solely to couples' communication, as it often becomes a significant challenge in many relationships.

I also teach couples the importance of setting aside dedicated time for quality connection, as it enhances the spark in their relationship. Therefore, couples should make it a priority to schedule regular date nights. Whether it is a cozy evening at home or a weekend getaway, these moments provide an opportunity to engage in activities that both partners enjoy. By pursuing shared hobbies and interests, you can foster a deeper connection and create lasting memories that strengthen your bond. In addition, it is crucial to prioritize uninterrupted time together, free from the distractions of phones, television, and technology. These moments of shared presence and focused attention allow you to truly connect, nurture intimacy, and create a haven for love and laughter within your marriage.

When you have disagreements, it's important to concentrate on the specific issue at hand. Avoid the temptation to bring up past hurts, irrelevant matters, and proverbial "in-laws." Take the time to actively listen to your partner's perspective without interrupting and defensiveness. This creates a safe environment for open communication and helps you truly understand each other's needs. By working together and focusing on finding solutions that address both of your concerns, you can constructively navigate conflicts. This approach can strengthen your bond and make you feel closer and more connected even after the disagreement. Remember, resolving conflicts isn't about winning or losing—it's about finding a way forward that respects both partners and reinforces the foundation of love and respect in your marriage. Keep in mind, that you establish a solid foundation for a common vision and purpose in your marriage by openly talking about the values, beliefs, and dreams that matter most to you. This sincere conversation enables you to pinpoint the goals you both share and establish a plan to achieve them together, fostering a sense of teamwork and collaboration. It's crucial to remember that your personal goals and dreams hold equal importance. Encourage and support each other's aspirations, celebrating individual accomplishments and allowing room for personal growth. This mutual respect and support not only enhance your personal journeys but also strengthen the underlying bond of your shared life, connecting your individual paths into a beautiful mosaic of love and fulfillment.

Always take the time to express your appreciation for your spouse's contributions, both big and small, as it is a powerful way to nurture love and connection. Verbal expressions of gratitude, whether a simple "thank you" or a heartfelt compliment, go a long way in making your partner feel valued and appreciated. Beyond words, acts of service and kindness, however small, demonstrate your care and support in tangible ways. Whether it is cooking your spouse's favorite meal, running errands, sending a text message during the day "I love you" or "I'm thinking about you", "you are beautiful", or simply doing the dishes, these gestures speak volumes about your commitment to the well-being of your relationship. Maintaining physical affection through hugs, kisses, and other forms of touch deepens your emotional connection and fosters intimacy. Remember, these expressions of love and appreciation, big and small, are extremely important for a thriving marriage.

Fostering personal growth starts by actively supporting each other's personal and professional aspirations. By celebrating individual achievements and milestones, we create an environment of encouragement and recognition. However, it is important to respect personal boundaries and allow each person the time and space they need to thrive. This combination of support, celebration, and respect lays the groundwork for nurturing individual growth and cultivating a positive and supportive environment.

Couples in committed relationships sometimes face overwhelming challenges. If you are unable to resolve recurring conflicts, seeking professional help from a priest or a therapist can offer valuable insights and tools to overcome these hurdles. External stressors such as financial burdens, family issues, or job-related problems can also take a toll on your marriage. Professional guidance can provide resources and support to help you manage these challenges. Seeking professional help is not a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of strength and commitment to your relationship. It shows that you are willing to invest in your growth and the well-being of your marriage.

Professional support can help you gain valuable communication skills, healthy coping mechanisms, and tools to navigate the complexities of life together. By investing in professional support, you can strengthen your marriage, making it more resilient and able to flourish over time.

To illustrate the complexities of navigating religious differences in marriage, let's consider Sarah, a Coptic Catholic, and Alex, a Muslim. Initially, Alex desired for Sarah to convert to Islam and raise their children within the Muslim faith. This presented a significant challenge, testing their commitment to understanding and respect. Through our counseling, they embarked on a journey of exploring their individual beliefs and seeking common ground. They learned to celebrate each other's holidays, engage in open dialogues about their faiths, and establish shared values that honored both traditions without syncretism. Their experience highlights the importance of patience, compromise, and a willingness to evolve within a loving relationship. Alex, one of my soldiers, embraced the opportunity to expand his perspectives and, in his words, "become a better husband and father."

Conclusion

Building a strong and fulfilling marriage is a journey that lasts a lifetime. By following the valuable insights that I have shared from countless hours of couples' pastoral counseling, you can lay a solid foundation for your marriage. Prioritizing communication, nurturing emotional connection, and actively working towards shared goals can create a deep and meaningful bond that will only grow stronger with time. Remember that every step you take towards strengthening your marriage is a step towards a lifetime of love and happiness. The next article will delve deeper into the important role communication plays in building a successful marriage.

Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese

Holy Family Parish SAMBS Sponsors Parish's Annual Wigilia

McKeesport, PA

The Holy Family Parish Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (SAMBS) sponsored the parish's Traditional Wigilia (Vigil Dinner) on Saturday, December 9, 2023. This year it was a special parish event with Holy Family's new pastor, Rev. Mariusz Mularczyk and his wife Isabella and son Johnny. Also in attendance were Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski, pastor emeritus and his wife Marian, neighbors Fr. Gregory Madeya, Deacon and Marlene Suchan of St. John Byzantine Church, and Rev. Daniel & Judith Borsay of the Free Hungarian Reform Church.

The menu consisted of rye bread, mushroom barszcz (homemade by Fr. Bruce), fried fish, pierogi, parslied potatoes, kompot, sauerkraut with mushrooms, bobalki, rice pudding and a variety of cookies along with hot and cold beverages. Santa stopped by to enjoy the fun and food, and everyone had a wonderful, festive time.



Carol Burlikowski, Steffie Coddington, Henia Albeck, Bozena Kijowski & Marlen Jobes prepare the cookie trays.



SAMBS President Kathy Trumpe and Pastor Rev. Mariusz Mularczyk welcome everyone to the Wigilia.



Fr. Mariusz, Santa Claus and Fr. Bruce



Wigilia Attendees



Carol Davelli conducts & parish organist Wendy Blotzer accompanies a few members of the Chopin Choir as they sing Kolędy.

Central Diocese

Good Shepherd Parish Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Plymouth, PA

It was with joyful hearts that the Good Shepherd Church, Plymouth, celebrated 125 years on September 30th, 2023. This is a remarkable milestone for a church that has witnessed and endured many changes and challenges over the years. It has been a



witness to history, surviving two world wars, the Great Depression, the coal mining industry, floods of 1936 and 1972, a fire in 1985, the pandemic of 2020, the building of a church rectory and the building of two churches.

The Good Shepherd parish was the third Polish National Catholic Church to be built in the United States. The actual date was December 26, 1898. It all began when disgruntled parishioners from Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Plymouth were dissatisfied and established this church. The first name of the church was Saint Mary's of Czestochowa. A building was bought at 269 E. Main St.in Plymouth where mass was held. Later, this became the rectory and the church was built next to it. For the second time the name was changed to Saint Mary's of Sufferance. There were great financial difficulties in the church and the property was going up for sale. Bishop - Elect Hodur saved the church property by purchasing it for \$18,800.00. Since Bishop Hodur became the sole trustee, he was required to satisfy a judgement of \$4,475 because of court litigation. He gave \$3000 from his personal funds and borrowed \$1,457.50 from his Scranton parishioners. When the parishes financial difficulty stabilized the money was paid back all but the \$3,000.00 that Bishop Hodur donated to the church. In July 1932 the name of the parish changed for the third time to Good Shepherd. In 1933 under the exemplary administration of Very Rev, Stanislaw Szufladowicz, an audit committee was formed and cleared all deaths by repaying all loans. Over the next several years many church improvements were made

Due to the deterioration of the rectory, which was the original structure bought at the time the parish property was purchased, a new rectory was built across the street under the spiritual guidance of Very Rev. Jan Chwiej. Two years after the rectory was built it was determined that the 86year-old church structure was deteriorating and was not worth restoration. On July 28, 1991, the new Good Shepherd Church Complex was built under the guidance and spiritual direction of Father Czesław Kuliczkowski. The

rectory and the new church were paid for by parishioners and there was no debt.

Currently Very Reverend Father Lucian Urbaniak is pastor of Good Shepherd. Under his guidance the entire church was repainted in preparation to celebrate our 125th anniversary. On the day of our anniversary celebration, the original bell that was in the steeple of the old church was rung manually as it did when the 100th year anniversary was celebrated. The procession took place outside from the church hall into the main entrance of the church. Participants were Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. Diocesan Bishop Bernard Nowicki, pastor of the Good Shepherd Church, Very Rev. Lucian Urbaniak, several clergies from various churches, altar servers and members of the ladies Adoration Society. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky and Diocesan Bishop Bernard Nowicki were welcomed into the church with bread and salt presented by parish chairman, Mike Truskowski and his wife, Melissa. Mass was celebrated by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. Many thanks to our organist, Bill Loyack, and the choir from All Saints Roman Catholic Church in Plymouth and friends from neighboring parishes as they joined our choir praising God in song on this special occasion. Following mass, a dinner dance was held at R&D Memories, Hanover Township. Chairman, Mike Truszkowski, welcomed everyone and Bernie Panasiewicz was toastmaster. Flowers were presented to Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky and his wife, Carol and Diocesan Bishop Bernard Nowicki by altar servers, Ryan Stokes and Stephen Truszkowski, assisted by Jennifer Stokes. The guest speakers were Father Edward Czudak and State Rep. Alec Ryncavage, of the 119th legislative district, who presented the church with a proclamation from the governor. Entertainment for the evening was provided by classic DJ's. A very blessed and memorable occasion was enjoyed by all.

Article by Bernadette Truszkowski, Financial Secretary

Wreaths Across America Celebrated by St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish

Scranton, PA

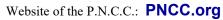
Saturday, December 16, 2023, was a special day of remembrance at the graves of the U.S. Military Veterans at St. Stanislaus Cathedral's Cemetery in the Minooka section of Scranton, PA. The Cathedral Parish, along with sponsors Mission BBQ and Lockheed Martin provided wreaths for the veterans buried in the parish cemetery on Wreaths Across America Day.

Wreaths were laid on the graves of veterans to honor them and to remember their service to our country. Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C., and Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Administrator of the Central Diocese of the P.N.C.C., were present, along with parishioners, veterans' families, and friends at this very special annual memorial.

God bless our veterans and their families.









Official P.N.C.C. Facebook Page: PNCC1

Holy Cross Parish Christmas Activities

Woodland Park, NJ

On Sunday, December 10th, dozens of parishioners of Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, NJ, attended the annual parish Christmas Dinner.

The children and all attendees enjoyed Christmas music and a great menu consisting of baked salmon, pork roast, chicken marsala, beef empanadas, Spanish rice, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, bread & rolls and assorted desserts.

Many thanks to everyone who attended this event, especially the parents for bringing their children. The children of Holy Cross are special and are a very important part of our Church.

Santa (St. Nicholas) came with his elf helper and gave presents to all the children. He told them to listen and help their parents and be well behaved. Lots of pictures were taken with Santa.



On the Solemnity of Christ the King, Holy Cross Parish, Woodland Park, NJ, set up an Advent tree containing 15 tags, each for a child living in foster homes, and 20 tags, each for Eva's Shelter senior men and women, in the vestibule of the church. Parishioners were asked to donate warm clothes, gloves, hat, scarf, sweater, sweatshirt, underwear, or any item suitable to five to the seniors; gift suggestions were enclosed in each child's tag.

On December 17th, the project ended and a total of 25 children's gifts and 20 seniors' gifts were distributed. Many thanks to everyone for helping out those less fortunate.



Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Christmas Activities

Dupont, PA

Children of the School of Christian Living at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA, presented "The Jesse Tree" play before the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. Special thanks to Debbie Bilinski who prepared the program and Josh Bilinski who made all the ornaments and the tree itself.





Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish held its annual Breakfast with Saint Nicholas on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Breakfast was complimentary to all parishioners and friends of our parish. All children received gifts from St Nicholas. During the breakfast we made a donation of toys to the Greater Pittston Santa Squad. We would like to thank our parish volunteers for setting and decorating the Parish Hall and all the cooking.





Breakfast Volunteers



Parishioners and Friends at Breakfast



Representatives from Greater Pittston Santa Squad receive toys from Very Rev. Dawid.



Parish Children with St. Nicholas Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid

Getting Our Saviour Parish Ready for Christmas

Lawrenceville, NJ

Following Holy Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent the parishioners of Our Savior Parish, Lawrenceville, NJ set to work to decorate the church for Christmas. Everyone pitched in and it was finished in no time. It turned out beautiful. Fr. Carmen G. Bolock is the Administrator, and Mr. Chris Ewaskiewicz is the Parish Committee Chair of Our Saviour Parish.







Rev. Bolock Welcomed to Our Saviour Parish

Lawrenceville, NJ

During the November 2023 Parish Committee meeting the committee of Our Saviour Parish, Lawrenceville, NJ, held a welcome for Rev. Fr. Carmen G. Bolock as their new parish Administrator.

A delicious cake was presented to Fr. Carmen and everyone present at the meeting enjoyed the cake, some fruit and some fellowship to welcome the new parish administrator.



St. Valentine's Parish Decorates for Christmas

Philadelphia, PA

On the fourth Sunday of Advent the family members of St. Valentine's Parish, Philadelphia, PA, got together to decorate the church for Christmas. The decorating was tastefully done. The members of the Parish Committee and Pat Bolock setup the decorations in the church. The poinsettias were donated by Trish Heberly.

Fr. Carmen G. Bolock is the Administrator and Mr. Bill Quilty is the Parish Chair of St. Valentine's Parish.



Submitted by Rev. Carmen G. Bolock

Eastern Diocese

Blessed Trinity Parish Helps Those in Need Fall River, MA

Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA, participated with Law Enforcement Assisting Families (LEAF), the Fall River Police Department (FRPD), Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan and the City of Fall River in the annual Community Christmas Toy Drive collection. About 450 kids across the city received bags of toys for Christmas wrapped by volunteers and delivered by the FRPD, Fall River Fire Department (FRFD) and the Mayor!

It was wonderful to be a part of this annual effort and thanks to all who supported it in any way.



On Saturday, December 23rd, Blessed Trinity Parish youth supported Thrive and their ongoing efforts in feeding the homeless. A full dinner of baked meatloaf with sides, two bags of snacks and special treats and other donations were provided. Thanks to everyone who donated and helped prepare, pack and deliver the hot meal and goodie bags to those in need in the Fall River, MA, area.



Website of the P.N.C.C.: PNCC.org

Western Diocese

No Shortage of Activities at St. Mary's Parish South Bend, IN

St. Mary's sent 3 youth and 1 adult, accompanied by Very Reverend Charles Zawistowski, to the Youth Gathering at Walnut Ridge Retreat Center in Morgantown, Indiana. Since one of our youth was the youngest participant, a special lantern was given to St Mary's Parish for display on the side altar. The lantern is a tribute to the late Bishop Jerry Rafalko who enjoyed giving candles and lanterns to others. The lantern will go to all parishes who sent participants to the Youth Gathering.





The Men's Club organized an outing to the South Bend Cubs baseball game with 21 parishioners attending the event in July. Everyone had a wonderful time.



On October 7, our 3rd Blessing of Pets was held, blessing 34 dogs, 2 cats, 2 guinea pigs, with 55 people attending.



In addition, a collection of dog & cat foods, soft treats, and toys was made for local animal shelters.

We collected 18 large bags of dog and cat food, 4 grocery bags of treats and canned food with \$163 collected to support a no-kill animal shelter, and \$50 given to a local cattery (note: the \$50 was donated by Martin's grocery store employees who donated tips). The Martin's Food Truck was on hand, donated by a parishioner for the event.

On October 21, the Men's Club held their Chili Cookoff. There were 14 different chili dishes available. Those attending could dine in, carry out, or curbside service. It was a great success!

Golf Trophy – The clergy team of Father Jason Soltysiak, Subdeacon Doug Scott, and Very Reverend Charles Zawistowski won the YMSR division trophy for best score at the YMSR Golf Outing hosted by St. Mary's Parish in Parma, OH. Congratulations to them!

Our 2nd Trunk or Treat was held on October 29. Vehicles were decorated, but due to rain, the event was moved inside the parish hall. This was a good alternative, and we will aim to have next year's event indoors as well.

Elves for Elders – we supported Real Services who sponsored this project. Their elderly clients received \$50 gift cards for the holidays. St. Mary's collected funds to purchase 5 gift cards to donate.

We celebrated Remembrance Day on November 5. Parishioners brought pictures of departed loved ones which were on display. After Mass, parishioners could remain to look at the photos.

The Ladies Adoration Society held a Cash & Gift Card Drawing on November 12. The first prize was \$200 cash and numerous gift cards were donated by Society members. On Sunday, November 19 following Mass, a Thanksgiving Pot Luck was held at the hall with 40 attending. The parish provided turkey and beverages, and those attending brought side dishes or desserts. Parishioners were encouraged to bring guests. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship.

We, once again, have greeters to greet parishioners or visitors as they enter St. Mary's for Sunday services.

The Chopin Choir sold Christmas cards hand designed by Donald Willman and chocolates from the South Bend Chocolate Factory as a fund raiser. The chocolates include turtles and Rudolph noses. These were unique gifts from our parish!

Decorating the Church for Christmas has just been completed. Every year, parishioners hang the wreaths, garland, decorate the trees, and set up the nativity scene, and set the poinsettias on the altar. Everyone worked well together, and the decorating is accomplished in a couple of hours.

The work on our bell tower and roof repairs will be accomplished in three phases. Phase 1, consisting of bell tower repairs along with roof repairs, flashing, and frost shield, has been completed. Phase 2 will involve brick and mortar repairs. Phase 3 will complete the work with power washing and sealing. It is estimated that the final work will be completed late spring or early summer, weather dependent. Thus far, of the \$60,000 cost, we have collected \$10,000 from parishioners, and a benefactor has also pledged a majority of the funds to complete this work. We are fortunate that our societies, parishioners, and benefactors have been so generous.

We send all of you our greetings for a very wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Article by Fran Lemanski



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 <u>secretarytopb@pncc.org</u> 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 <u>with your payment</u> 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.

2024 ORDO Order Fo Clergy/Parish/Individual Name and Shipping Address:	orm			
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.				

