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NEWSLETTER

MARCH

2016



FOR I TELL YOU THAT THIS SCRIPTURE MUST BE FULFILLED IN ME: 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS.'

Last year, in this newsletter, we noted that Easter was right around the corner. This year, it is here. The Lenten season seems to have flown by. Maybe it was the good weather, we didn't feel so closed in. Maybe because Lent started so early. Whatever the reason, this Lent seems to fall into the realm of the unexpected.

Looking up the standard dictionary definition of unexpected we quote: "*not expected or regarded as likely to happen. 'his death was totally unexpected'*"

Expectedly, Jesus is the fulfillment of all scripture. Unexpectedly, Jesus - God Himself - must be counted among sinners and must pay the penalty for sin even though He cannot sin, is sinless. '*And he was numbered with the transgressors.*'

Our God continually surprises us. Imagine the day when we shall stand before Him. We should tremble with fear. Yet, unexpectedly, He will welcome us, as we say in the liturgy, *not counting our sins against us.*

On March 24th we will see Jesus gather with His disciples for that special dinner in which He will unexpectedly give us His body and blood, food and drink for our journey back to Him. On March 25th we will reflect on Jesus as He hangs on the cross, dying the most painful and horrible of deaths. We will see the sinless One die with and be buried with sinners.

On March 26th we will prepare new light to remind us that our God, who loves us so unexpectedly has come to guide us, unworthy as we are, with His light. We prepare new baptismal water to welcome those who will unexpectedly come forward to cast off the world and join themselves to Jesus.

On that great Sunday, March 27th, Easter, we will unexpectedly find the tomb empty. *He is risen, He is not here* the angel will say.

Our call is to carry the unexpected into a world caught up only in the expected. We are to be those unexpected intervenors bearing Jesus and Eden to all we encounter.

Lenten Retreat

Lenten Retreats in parishes and Seniorates all over the country and Canada are scheduled for this season. The retreats are only one of eight initiatives set forward by this past national Synod for *"each and every parishioner to play a role in bringing about a renewed and active spiritual life in the parishes and in the entire Church"* Our Mohawk Valley Seniorate will conduct its Lenten Retreat **on Saturday, March 12th at Sacred Heart of Jesus/Holy Cross Parish in New York Mills starting at 10am.** We will arrange for car-pooling. Please let Fr. Jim or Larry know if you are going so we can give counts for breakfast and lunch. There is no charge for this spiritual exercise

Join us for everything Easter

We so look forward to seeing you for the remainder of Lent as we join together in fellowship as we pray, sacrifice, fast, increase our charity, and forgive. Passiontide starts March 13th. March 20th is Palm Sunday marking the start of Holy Week. See our Holy Week schedule in this Newsletter. We reach the highpoint of the year's joy on Easter Sunday, March 27th with our Solemn Resurrection Holy Mass at 8am (and there is a special surprise

this year). This is a glorious time in the life of faith, our community, and the Holy Church.

Walk with Jesus in the days and weeks leading up to Easter so as to rejoice with Him in His resurrection.



Cross Walk

The second annual Good Friday Cross Walk in the Mont Pleasant neighborhood is scheduled for Friday, March 25th, (rain date Saturday, March 26th) beginning at 10 a.m. at Holy Name of Jesus and ending at the hosting church, The Bridge Christian Church, 735 Crane Street, around noon.

The walk itinerary will also include New Creation in Christ Ministry, Saint Adalbert's R.C. Church, and other local Churches. A short message by each pastor will be given at each church. Refreshments will be served at The Bridge Christian Church afterward.

All church members and the public, are invited to join the Cross Walk and to pray along with the walkers, who will take turns carrying a full-size Cross adorned with a Crown of Thorns.

Outrageous Valentine's Raffle Winners!!!

Congratulations to all who won in our Outrageous Valentine's Raffle. This year's winners were Bishop Stanley Bilinski (2X), Patty Badovinac (2X), Joselyn Ruchalski, Liz Battaglia, Emily Ruchalski, Stefan Węglinski (2X), Frances Wedrychowicz, Fr. Dennis Ruda (2X), Danny McGuire, Jessica Campbell, Brian Williams (\$100 winner), Stephanie & Rick Ferguson, Victoria Konicki, Frank Panek, Heather Shultz, Emma Brooking, Irene Borowski, D.J. DePaula, Mariane Węglinski, Sue Walker, John Kaminski, B. Childs, Lolly Mozersky, Marilyn Hietala, and Scott Williams.

Thank you to those who re-donated their winnings as a special blessing. We have raised over \$1,500 for our youth programs.

Please Help Basket Social - April 17th NEW LOCATION!



B is for Basket

It is time to get ready for our annual basket social to be held Sunday, April 17th now at

the Rotterdam Senior Citizens Center. We really need your help to make this year's Social a success. Can you donate a basket, or two, or three? They don't have to be huge - anything will do. Through your love and charity we are able to touch the lives of others and maintain a vibrant faith community. Need ideas - check out Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/cm1953/basket-party-ideas/>

Pierogi Anyone?

The parish has pierogi and golumbki available for purchase. Pierogis \$7.50 per dozen; Golumbkis \$25 per dozen, half-dozen for \$15 or \$3 each. Order by March 18th. Pick up is Saturday March 26 from 9-12 at the church. Call Stephanie at 518-369-1346 to order or with questions.

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

9 Rebecca Kopec,
Marianna Zemken
12 Frederick
James
13 Christopher
Maliszewski
14 Paul Zebrowski Sr., Deborah
Kusek
16 Steven James

i thank
the Lord
for you.
happy
birthday!

18 Justyne Rios
19 Justin Smith, Stanley Podkulski,
Danielle DeMidio
21 Susie Spooner, Gary Podbielski,
Matthew Zembruski
23 Erin Pross
24 Amber Houser
26 Elizabeth Battaglia, Nylyse Rios,
Sarah Limmer
27 Skyler Dee
28 Frances Pawlowski, Lilianna
Kalnaus
30 Susan Malinowski

Wishing you all many years!

**Thank you, Merci, Dziękuję,
Āčiū, Gracias, Mahalo, Grazie!**

To all who attended our annual meeting. You honor the sacrifice of our ancestors who built this democratic model of Church and keep their hope alive by your participation. We are dedicating this year to recognizing the joy we have in Jesus.

Congratulations to all those elected to parish offices and our special thanks to those who served in any way over the past year. A special thank you to Bob and Stephanie for preparing a wonderful breakfast that day.

Thank you for your Souper Bowl Sunday generosity. \$96 and 220 pounds of food was collected and donated locally.

Thank you to our wonderful altar servers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to Ed Bertasso for his ministry of

hospitality.

To every parishioner, visitor, and member -- you are a blessing and a treasure. Thank you!!!

Need Rental Space?

**Family gathering, a party,
meetings? Check out our Parish
Hall. Discounted rental rates are
available to parishioners.**

Year of Reverence Update from the Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council of the Polish National Catholic Church

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,

We hope you are enjoying your Lenten journey with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we take advantage of these 40 days of opportunity to grow in our faith and closer to Christ.

Once thing we are called to do is focus on Reverence at Mass. Do we prepare ourselves properly to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? Are we reverent before, during and after Mass?

We are sharing with you prayers

from our PNCC Prayer Book (2010). Offer them before and after attending Holy Mass.

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS

My dear God and loving Father, I thank You for making it possible for me to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass, during which I will be united with my Lord Jesus Christ. May Jesus fill me with His holy grace when I open my heart to Him in sincere prayer. May the sacraments I will receive, the prayers that I will say and the hymns that I will sing bring me closer to Jesus and help me to be more like Him in all that I say and do. May the Holy Communion that I will receive give me strength, so that I may share faith, hope and love with the people I will meet. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY MASS

I am grateful to You, Lord, that I was able to come to church and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. I thank You for receiving Your gracious pardon, Your instruction and teaching through Your Word, and Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion. May Your sacraments continue to strengthen and help me to be faithful to You and Your Church. Help me to face all the challenges of life on my journey to Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Also, before Mass, arrive a few minutes earlier than usual and look at the beginning pages of our Mass booklets (pew missal). Pages 1 to 8

will help us prepare for our participation in Holy Mass.

Oh those page we find the following which calls to mind the purpose of our worship and reverence:

I desire, therefore, to offer this Mass and to receive Holy Communion

- *for Your greater glory.*
- *for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ.*
- *to thank You for all the blessings You have given me, especially...*
- *to ask Your help with a problem I have, namely ...*
- *to ask You to bless all my relatives and friends, especially ...*
- *for those who have died, especially ...*
- *for my special intention, namely ...*

Bless the priest through whom I will make this offering. Bless all the people who are here to participate in this glorious action and all who would like to be here.

Convert all sinners. Preserve peace and heal the anguish of the world and have mercy on all the faithful departed.

All these things I ask in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We hope you are planning to attend a Lenten retreat in the next few weeks. An important time to increase our Catholic spirituality and understanding to be better equipped to live and share our precious faith.

It was wonderful to hear that many parishes participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring encouraged by our National United Youth Association. We should also be looking at our community service projects for the year, taking the faith we profess and making it evident in our local parish communities.

Please feel free to contact our Future Direction committee at FutureDirection@pncc.org should you have any questions, concerns or challenges with this plan. Our committee is here to help you.

May God continue to bless this important work and may we be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we allow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to work through us in building His Kingdom.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
PNCC Supreme Council Future
Direction Committee

Directed Giving for Lent:



3rd Week of Lent,
Feb. 28-Mar. 5,
DINNER IS SERVED
Canned Beef Stew,
Canned Pork and
Beans, Instant
Potatoes/Stuffing
Mix, Macaroni and
Cheese, Spaghetti or

other Pasta, Canned Spaghetti
Sauce.

4th Week of Lent, Mar. 6-12,
SCHOOL NEEDS Pencils and Pens,
Folders and Notebooks, Crayons,

Tape and Elmer's Glue.

Passion Week, Mar. 13-19, BABY
MAKES THREE Disposable Diapers,
Baby Wipes, Liquid Formula, Jars of
Baby Food.

Holy Week, Mar 20-26, SPECIAL
NEEDS DIET Low Sodium Soups,
Canned Fruit in Juices (not syrup),
Canned Tuna in Water, Low Sodium
Crackers, Natural Applesauce.

SOCL News and Confirmation

Be sure to bring your children for
School of Christian living classes.
Our youngest ones have story time
and we are starting a First
Communion class. Classes are
available for adults who have not
yet made their confirmation. To
make one's confirmation, a student
must be at least 14 years old and of
sufficient maturity to grasp the adult
commitment needed.

Planning For:

- **Every Friday in Lent - Stations of the Cross at 7pm**
- Mar. 4: Commemoration of St. Casimir. Stations of the Cross at 7pm.
- Mar. 6: 4th Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- Mar. 11: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.
- Mar. 12: Seniorate Lenten Retreat, Sacred Heart of Jesus/Holy Cross Parish in New York Mills starting at 10am.

- Mar. 13: Passion Sunday. **Holy Mass at 10am only**, Breakfast, Annual Budget Meeting. Daylight Savings Time Begins.
- **Mar. 18: NO Stations of the Cross (Fr. Jim will be away).**
- Mar. 19: Solemnity - St. Joseph.
- Mar. 20: Palm Sunday, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. free Lunch on Sunday.
- Mar. 21: Holy Monday. Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm.
- Mar. 22: Holy Mass of Chrism (Cathedral in Scranton).
- Mar. 24: Maundy Thursday, Holy Mass, Procession, Stripping of the Altars, 7pm.
- Mar. 25: Good Friday, Cross Walk at 10am, Private Devotions at 2pm, Bitter Lamentations at 3pm, Liturgy of the Presanctified and Opening of the Tomb at 7pm.
- Mar. 26: Holy Saturday, Liturgy of New Fire, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Blessing of Easter Baskets, 4pm.
- Mar. 27: **Solemnity of the Resurrection/Easter**, Holy Mass at 8am and 10am.
- Mar. 30: Bible study at 7:30pm.
- Apr. 3: Low Sunday, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- Apr. 4: Solemnity of the Annunciation (translated).
- Apr. 10: 3rd Sunday of Easter
- **Apr. 17: Good Shepherd Sunday. Basket Social**

Parishioner Poetry

"Entangled" by Michelle Zawistowski, June 2008

*The soul regenerates,
The heart enlightens,
The spirit captures
the essence of the day,
The body infuses with God,
all entangled together.*

Thank you to Michele for sharing her poetry with us. We welcome all to share poetry, music, or other works for our newsletter.

Parish Organizations and Ministries

Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you? God calls us to work together for the good of our community, in support of each other, and for the needs of the Church. We have a particular need for altar servers and lectors. Please see Fr. Jim.

SEASON OF LENT

Lent is the time to increase our prayer, sacrifice, fasting, charity, and forgiveness.

With this in mind, the parish offers the Lenten Devotion of Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7pm.

Remember too that the Holy Church asks us to fast and abstain from meat every Wednesday and Friday in Lent and from Holy Wednesday through Holy Saturday. This practice

helps us to remember Jesus' sacrifice every time we sit down to eat a meal. If we can't give up something as simple as a ham sandwich, how can we fight heavier temptation? Now is the time to train with the easy stuff (but it seems so hard) so we can better fight the really tough things that try to draw us away from Jesus.

I hope and pray each of us will use these very special days to the greatest possible good.

CONVO 2016

We are excited to announce that Convo 2016 will be held from July 25 – 29, 2016 at St. Anselm's College in Manchester, New Hampshire. Registration and health forms that needs to be completed for all Convo participants are now available. Due to a successful Convo raffle, six Convo sponsorships, and a generous contribution of the Polish National Union of America during their recent Convention the registration fee is \$300 per participant.

Completed registration and health forms with payment made payable to Convo 2016 Committee should be sent by May 15, 2016 to: Convo 2016 Committee c/o Blessed Trinity Parish, 37 Winthrop Street Fall River, MA 02721

For those forms received after May 15th the registration fee will be \$350. Registration forms will not be accepted after July 1, 2016.

The Convo 2016 Committee has been meeting and is planning for an exciting week of worship, prayer, learning and Christian fellowship.

Don't forget to check out the Convo 2016 YouTube channel and follow CONVO on Facebook at: Convo 2016

SOLEMNITY OF THE INSTITUTION











This year the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church falls on Passion Sunday, March 13th. As such, the Solemnity is not explicitly observed since Passion Sunday takes precedence.

During this Year of Reverence let us pray fervently for the repose of all those who built our Holy Church and for the Church today and in the years to come. Our Holy Church is pristinely Catholic and democratic. May our faith tradition of renewal and regeneration draw many so that through our efforts, in faithfulness to Christ, they may come to know, love, and serve the Lord.

Happy 119th anniversary to all members and faithful of our Holy Church.



March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	 2	3	 4 Commemoration of St. Casimir Stations of the Cross 7pm	5
6 4th Sunday of Lent - Holy Mass, 9:30am & 11:30am Lector: Derek Westcott/Claudia Bertasso. Also: Parish Committee	7	8	 9	10	 11 Stations of the Cross 7pm	12 Seniorate Lenten Retreat at Sacred Heart of Jesus/Holy Cross Parish in New York Mills
13 Passion Sunday - Holy Mass 10am. Lector: Larry Panfil. Also: Breakfast, Annual Budget Meeting; REMINDER: Day Light Savings Starts.	14	15	 16	17	 18 NO Stations of the Cross tonight	19 Solemnity – St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M.
20 Palm Sunday - Holy Mass, 9:30am & 11:30am Lector: Marilyn Hietala/Claudia Bertasso Free Lunch on Sunday	21 Holy Monday. Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm	22 Holy Tuesday Holy Mass of Chrism (Cathedral in Scranton)	23  Holy Wednesday	24  Maundy Thursday Holy Mass at 7pm	25  Good Friday, Cross Walk at 10am, Bitter Lamentations at 3pm, Liturgy of the Presanctified and Opening of the tomb at 7pm	26  Holy Saturday, Liturgies at 4pm
27 Solemnity of the Resurrection/Easter, Holy Mass at 8am and 10am	28	29	30 Bible study at 7:30pm	31		

EVENTS

April Events:

- 4/3 - Low Sunday, Basket Social
- 4/10 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

- 4/17 – Good Shepherd Sunday, Basket Social

Basket Social! Only a few weeks left to get those wonderful baskets together for our April 17h event. **Now at the Rotterdam Senior Citizens Club**