

St. Stanislaus Cathedral

www.saintstanislauspncc.org

Email: Events@SaintStanislausPNCC.org

The First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church

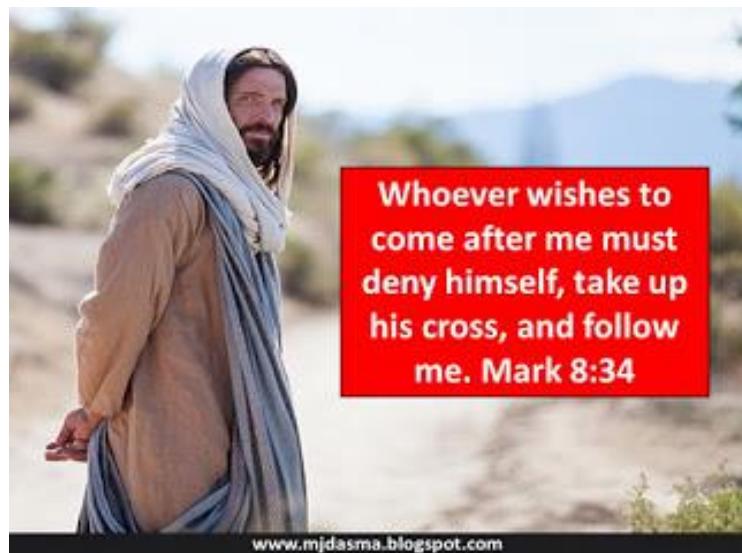
529 East Locust St. Scranton, PA 18505 – Rectory 570-343-6017

The Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki, DD, pastor – bishop@saintstanislauspncc.org

The Reverend Janusz A. Lucarz, assistant pastor – frjanusz@saintstanislauspncc.org

TBA – Organist / Director of Music

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary time September 16, 2018



Masses: 8:00 am – Traditional Holy Mass

9:30 am – Contemporary Holy Mass

11:15 am – Traditional Holy Mass, Cathedral Chapel, Our Savior, Tripp Park

Parish Office: 570-961-9231 – **Youth Center:** 570-961-8364

Edward Borek: Parishchair@saintstanislauspncc.org

Announcements: Bulletin@saintstanislauspncc.org

Bills/Payments: Treasurer@saintstanislauspncc.org

Parish Information: Office@saintstanislauspncc.org

Lectors:

9/16 – 8:00 –

9:30 – M. Hughes & P. Kowalski

11:15 – L. McConlogue

9/23 – 8:00 – K. Michalina

9:30 – E. Hughes & P. Kowalski

11:15 – L. Mc Conlogue

TUESDAY, September 18th

6:30 pm – Parish Committee monthly meeting

** NEXT SUNDAY, September 23rd, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Spójnia Sunday

Holy Mass: **8:00 am** Traditional **9:30 am** Contemporary

11:15 am Cathedral Chapel, Tripp Park

LIBRARY CLEAN UP – There are items in the library on a small table at the entrance. All chairpersons of organizations and other interested parties should review them and claim them, or tell LuAnn Kaszuba or Barbara Nowicki what to do with them. Please see if you can get this done today or early next week. Thank you!

OUR ADULT FORUM of the SOCL – Don't Be Too Cool for 'The School'! OK?

Our bishops, Anthony, John and Bernard, will lead the upcoming sessions of our Adult Forum where three goals will be foremost in our time together, such as,

1. Asking Questions

Sermons are one-way communication. In the Adult Forum, you can ask questions. The opening sessions will need a lot of questions to help focus the course of the discussions for upcoming sessions. Why do we do what we do in church at the different times of the year? What are spiritual gifts? Why do we still follow some Old Testament laws but not others? What does the Bible say about discipline and immigration and economic policy? The Adult Forum session is where you can ask those questions you've always been meaning to ask and gain a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of our Catholic and scripture and what they mean for your life each day.

2. Getting Different Perspectives on Parish & Church Life & Your Faith

Because it's expected we'll have open discussion and questions in the Adult Forum, you can gain perspective on matters from different people of different backgrounds and differing walks of life gathered with you. An interesting mix of different interesting people with different perspectives on life and faith can be an education in itself.

3. Developing a Sense of Belonging

Even larger parishes seem smaller when you get to know people one-on-one in the Adult Forum session. If you don't already, you'll start recognizing familiar faces in church, and those people will introduce you to other people and share and realize commonalities and uniquenesses you didn't realize before!

So, Don't be too cool for 'The School' – the School of Christian Living, Adult Forum, that is!

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING OVERVIEW – just some descriptives to anticipate.

HIGH SCHOOL – The Freedom Ride – Our teens will understand better their encounter with God and their growth in faith through special areas like: * How to REALLY talk to God-*without breaking out in hives and really enjoy yourself*; * How to Behave: Keeping it Real, - *especially on Friday and Saturday nights*, and * Getting beyond the self-esteem wars - *Putting yourself in the other guys shoes – without catching his foot fungus!*

MIDDLE SCHOOL - ‘Tween’ a Rock and a Hard Place – Time together will help our ‘twens’ place Christ’s friendship at the center of solutions for hard-hitting issues they will face in the coming years: good conformity vs. bad conformity, peer pressure, drinking, drugs, gossip, forgiveness, and more!

INTERMEDIATE ELEMENTARY - The Divine Dozen: 12 Parables of Jesus Every Child Should Know - Children will love the stories Jesus loved to tell them getting his message across. Our children will learn about His ministry through fun stories that with lots of hands on materials, including Legos! These include: Henry’s Bestest Birthday Party Ever! (*Parable of the Unwilling Party Guests*); Let’s Be Backyard Good Samaritans (*Parable of the Good Samaritan*);

INFANT, PRE-SCHOOL, K-1 - Pray ‘n Play – Our toddlers will respond to the concepts of Jesus and Christian behavior. Through ‘kid-friendly’ language, songs, crafts, stories, puppets, and other fun activities children will learn about God and his creation. that Jesus is their friend, and will be always with them and more!

SO – ARE YOU HOLY? A man and a woman ordered a couple chicken dinners from KFC for their picnic, only to realize their bag of food had \$1000 in it instead of their dinners. Of course, they returned it immediately, but the man refused to allow the manager to put this heroic, even saintly example of honesty into the local paper. He explained his refusal this way: You see, buddy, the woman I’m with is someone else’s wife! So, while the man might well be a hero for bringing back the money, a saint he ain’t!

This scenario echoes St James when he teaches that there are two parts to Christian holiness: doing good to others and keeping yourself pure. He says that “Religion that is pure...before God...is this: to take care for orphans and widows...and to keep [yourself] unstained by the world” (1:27). That’s why the man in the KFC story scores high in honesty but low in purity, being stained by the world and all.

St. James is called the apostle of applied Christianity, of putting Christianity into practice. That’s why he explains that a Christian has to score high marks in both areas: like giving the manager back his \$1000 (concern for the welfare of others) and by avoiding amorous picnics with other people’s spouses (practicing self-control).

So – are you holy? The test of holiness, he says, is how you live out the word of God that you hear.

That means how you live out the word of God right here at Church for starters, especially in the in the context of the Flea Market, the Parish Office, in your monthly organizational meetings, and also in your family. Holiness is not only coming to church to hear God’s word and conduct beautiful

ceremonies. Holiness is – practicing - applying what you hear and see in Church to the way you live and interact with each other starting here at the Cathedral and out there in the world and, of course, at home.

St James also says: But be doers of the word...not merely hearers [of it]...For if any are [only] hearers of the word...they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ...they look at themselves [there], and [then withdraw from the mirror], [forgetting] what they [looked] like (1:22-24).

James says you’re just a hearer and not a doer when see your dirty face and mussed up hair in the mirror - and leave it without doing anything about the way you look. James explains that the mirror is the word of God: it shows how dirty your face and how mussed up your hair sometimes is. But just *hearing* the word of God doesn’t make you holy. Likewise, just *seeing* your messiness in the mirror doesn’t make you neat and clean. However, when you clean yourself up by putting your faith into action, your holiness begins to appear, and others notice, and they marvel at it, and realize there’s definitely something more to you. They’ll see in you the godliness that you are called to reveal to the world.

So – are you holy? Look at yourself in the mirror of God’s word, and then *do* something about any messiness you behold reflected there.

Bishop Bernard

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS – will begin Saturday, October 6, 2018 for our young parishioners age eight and older in order to prepare to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time. Registration is due September 30th.

ANS UPDATES – September 30th....The ANS will sponsor Coffee Hour!!!

Next scheduled monthly ANS Meeting; Sunday, October 28th @ 11:30 in The Board Room.

ANS FALL DINNER – Ticket sales are now available for our Harvest Dinner....& may be purchased from sodality members!!

As President of this awesome group of "Earth Angels".....I come to you in prayer with a request for your help with The Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society annual "Harvest Dinner", scheduled on Sunday, October 21st. We are always in the need of help in the kitchen, along with setting up the Youth Center prior to the dinner & also would be extremely grateful for "Basket Donation's" or any means of donations such as monetary or gift cards. As in the past, we have been truly blessed with donations of free will gifts which were most truly appreciated.

Thank you & God Bless All,
Kathy Michalina

**Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council
Polish National Catholic Church**



September 14, 2018

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

The Future Direction committee is sharing with you *an article written by Bishop John Mack* for his diocesan newsletter ACTS about the upcoming General Synod. Thank you, Bishop Mack, for allowing us to share this article as the Church prepares for Holy Synod.

The 25th General Synod – Standing at the Crossroads

I have decided to devote the lead article of this issue of ACTS to the upcoming Synod. Synod is just a few short days away as of this posting. Where did the four years go since our diocese hosted the last general synod at that beautiful location in Erie, PA on the waterfront? I came home feeling that we had really accomplished something. Almost a full day's time was allotted for small-group input and discussion. Results were tabulated quickly and reported back to the constituency. Groundwork was laid out for inspired programs of parish reactivation. A "future directions" sub-committee was formed in order to give guidance and expertise to parishes looking to reinvigorate their parishes in mission & outreach. A yearly plan was developed along with month-by-month action items to accomplish. I do hope and pray that their efforts brought forth good fruit in the parishes of our diocese. I always commend our parishes, their pastors and faithful in the fact that this is "nothing new" to their outreach and ministry on the local level in most instances. We can always glean a fresh new idea or two to implement however, and hopefully this has occurred.

The stark reality on the national level however, is that some parishes have done nothing with the tools and guidance that have been offered. This is especially frustrating to those who comprise that sub-committee and put forth an enormous amount of time and effort into making it happen. I have

heard (through reliable sources) that people in some parishes have simply asked: "When is your committee going to come and do this for us, so that we can increase our membership?" That statement is so spiritually mind-boggling that I cannot even begin to address it. What I would like to offer is a bit of a stroll down memory lane in the PNCC. We can't know where we want to go unless we know where we have been.

Most people in the PNCC usually possess a rudimentary knowledge of the reasons that the PNCC came into existence. Fr. Hodur had gone to Rome to present the tenets of the "National Church Program" to the authorities. Among these were: 1 – legal ownership of property by the local parish 2- parish governance by parish committees elected by parishioners 3 – appointment of parishes of priests approved by the Parishioners 4 - appointment of Polish bishops by priests and parishioners, subject to confirmation by the Pope. It should be noted that Fr. Hodur did not intend to break away from the Roman Catholic Church. And so, as they say, the rest is history. Fr. Hodur was told to go back to America and submit to the authorities or face exclusion.

I have two questions to pose. Are the reasons the PNCC came into existence still pertinent today and secondly, what have we as a church done to continue the vision and foresight of Bp. Hodur in the last 65 years? (Bp. Hodur died in 1953)

If you know the history of our church, you know that Bp. Hodur championed the cause of the downcast, the needy, the poor and the disenfranchised. He formed the PNU of America when members of the PNCC lost their life insurance. He found ways to provide assistance for the families who had lost a husband and father in the mines and were thrown out of their "company house" by the end of the week. Bishop Hodur was both socially and politically active in doing all that he could to see to it that every man and woman created by God in His own image had the right to freedom, to earn a just wage and to worship the God that created them. The causes that he fought for were real problems however, unlike the whimsical charade of issues that dominate the news today. Do we realize how far ahead of his time Bp. Hodur actually was? He was a visionary, a man who was unafraid to venture forth whatever the cost may be, even if it meant personal persecution and ridicule. Do we realize that women had the "right to vote" in our parishes before our nation passed the law on women's suffrage? Truly amazing! Back to the questions I posed which I will answer.

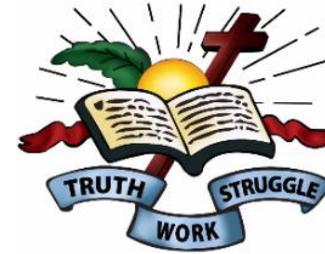
Yes, some of the reasons the break occurred are still pertinent. The ecclesial democracy of our denomination still has a place in today's world. Parish ownership of property (at least in the Catholic world) is still something that is unique to us. I know that other Catholic denominations now have committees of sort, yet their power is somewhat limited. Mass in Polish is celebrated less often and the vernacular today is mostly English and thankfully also Spanish in some locales. We certainly cannot remain a Polish ethno-centered church as we were in the nascent days of the PNCC. Even in the preamble of the constitution are the words: "the first and foremost objective and aim of this Church is the salvation and sanctification of the Polish people and all others united with this Church."

Our constitution has a system of checks and balances that model that of our nation. The democracy in the church, when it is fulfilled and interpreted rightly is a thing of beauty. Yet as a bishop, I am called to parishes and situations where democracy has run amuck. When parish governance is in disarray and has become a sad game of tug-a-war, the parish will suffer and die unless it is corrected. In some parishes a “club mentality” dominates with the exclusion of all others. Scripture tells us “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (Luke 12:48 NIV) This statement should shake us to our boots, especially for those who take on the mantle of parish leadership. We also need to consider the role of the pastor. The pastor is assigned or removed by the diocesan bishop. He is also (or should be) under the protection of the diocesan bishop whom he should see as a spiritual father and mentor. The priest has pledged his ministry and obedience to his ordaining bishop and his successors. Likewise, his ordinary should always be cognizant of the awesome responsibility he has in caring for his diocesan priests as well as for their families as well. When the pastor’s role is not perceived by the flock as being the leader, the shepherd, the one who is to be followed, there is little chance of growth nor vibrancy in the parish. When the words: charity, respect, forgiveness, cooperation, grace, hope and love are absent in a parish, even Jesus Himself could not make a difference if He walked in the front door on a Sunday morning.

The answer to the second questions “What have we as a church done to continue the vision and foresight of Bp. Hodur?” is one I cannot answer. The answer lies at the address of every parish of the PNCC. What is your parish known for in the community or is it even known by anyone outside of its own parishioners? What is the purpose, your mission, the goal of your parish for the next year or the next ten or twenty years? How does your parish serve the greater community? Have you even thought about it? Most importantly what part do **YOU play** in the continuance of building God’s kingdom on earth through your parish?

It is a well known fact that in any movement, revival, rebirth (call it what you may) there is always a charismatic leader who has the innate ability to move people to action. That person is able to shake people out of their complacency, to motivate and encourage them, to think bigger dreams and to dare larger odds and to bind them together in a common cause to achieve great things. Bp Hodur was such a man who dared to do great things for God. Unfortunately, once that person dies, it is difficult to continue the fervor, the dream and the vision. Jesus Himself knew that He must equip those who would follow Him with the necessary strength, wisdom and fortitude to continue His mission on earth. He chose twelve men who followed Him for three years during His earthly ministry. After Jesus ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit was sent at the first Pentecost, the twelve were enlivened to spread the faith.

They in turn trained and mentored others, who spread Christianity to the four corners of the earth. Bp. Hodur did the same, making sure that there would be deacons, priests, bishops and committed laity to carry on the work of the PNCC.



Having been the bishop of the Central Diocese and the pastor of St. Stanislaus Cathedral for a short while, I would hear some comments made on occasion. Not all were kind or Christian, yet everyone feels they are entitled to their “opinion.” Someone once said “We haven’t had a good bishop in this Cathedral since Bp Hodur.” I took offense, not for my sake, but for the sake of the other fine bishops who through the years, offered their gifts and talents to God through their priesthood and as bishops of the church. None were saints, and all were sinners and fallen human beings to be sure. I am certain without a doubt however, that the ministry they offered and the decisions they had to make came from a heart filled with a deep abiding faith tempered by the ever-present grace of the Almighty. I’m sure that not everything they did pleased everyone but they knew in their hearts that God had called them to shepherd; to lead their flocks and diocese. Trusting in the grace of God, that is what they did. Thinking back, I would, in Christian charity forgive the comment and realize that the person was probably influenced by someone who had simply been unable to move forward. They were stuck in time and chose to remain in that time warp, because it’s easier there and you don’t have to commit to anything to make it better.

What if we made a parallel comment such as “we haven’t had good and dedicated parishioners since the time of Bp. Hodur.” Ouch! Now that puts our face in the mirror. We are now in the hot seat. When we compare ourselves to the early founders of the church, most of us fade in comparison. When was the last time you had stones thrown at you, or you were spat upon and called not-so-nice names for being a member of the PNCC? My mother +Frances relayed those instances to me from her youth. I know also, that a few of the priests of our diocese have been maligned in such a manner for joining our denomination, but most of us have not experienced this firsthand, What about losing your job because you affiliated with the PNCC? When was the last time you re-mortgaged your house to provide funds for the construction of a new parish building or gave the parish a no-interest loan that you never asked to be repaid anyways? One of the “mature” parishioners at Holy Mother of the Rosary once told me a true story. During the construction of the cathedral, there were always “special items” that were offered to be sponsored by parishioners. We all know the scenario. Stations, altars, statues, stained glass windows just to name a few. She was asked to offer the main stained glass window of the Resurrected Jesus that shines beautifully on the east wall of the sanctuary. Although she had been planning on replacing her car with a new one, she agreed to take on that sponsorship. As she relayed the story to me, she pointed at the window and said, “there’s my new Cadillac.” Yet, I truly believe that in her mind and in her heart of hearts, the window was more important. She did what God compelled her to do. How many of us would make the same choice? We stand at the crossroads.

In closing this edition, as your diocesan shepherd I would like to add this. It is imperative that all parishes send their pastors and allotted delegates to our Holy Synod. There is **no excuse** for non-attendance. It is sinful to neglect the freedoms and democracy that so many fought for in the formation of our denomination. We dishonor them by our complacency and apathy. We are at a point in history when our church can experience a spiritual rebirth and new growth as a truly Catholic and apostolic Church. We have in our denomination what others crave and desire to have. We must define our denomination by what we truly are and possess and not by “what we are not.” Yes, it takes courage, yes it takes commitment and sacrifice. The eighth statement of the Declaration of Faith says: “I believe that every true Christian should take an active and vital part in the spiritual life of the Church.” It is time to shake off our complacency and to live out our baptismal promises made so many years ago. It is time to discover our unique part in bringing the presence of Christ to the world. It is time to more deeply define our relationship with Jesus. It is time to stop whining about the situations of our parishes and of the denomination as a whole and yes, even of the secular world around us and do something about it! Prime Bp. Francis Hodur, the organizer of the PNCC, knew what he was called to do and he acted upon it. Will you do the same? **It is time to commit!**



The Synod of our Holy Church is just more than two weeks away – let us pray for this Holy Gathering.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Grant us Your grace and blessing, as we prepare to gather together in Holy Synod to seek the Lord Jesus through Your Holy Church. Send Your Holy Spirit upon our Holy Church, that we may be guided by Your Holy Will. Strengthen our bishops, clergy and laity who will gather so that their decisions at Holy Synod may help lead others to Your Son Jesus Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.

We are encouraging all our parishes to please keep in your prayers our upcoming Holy Synod now just two weeks away. In preparation for our Holy Synod we are asking for you to share with our committee pictures and testimonials from successes that you have experienced as you implemented the future direction over these past four years. Please email them to FutureDirection@pncc.org

We hope you share the gifts God has given you for the good of your family, parish and our Holy Church. Have a blessed first month of fall.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

SPOJNIA SUNDAY – September 23, 2018 shall commemorate the historic association of the PNU and Polish National Catholic Church and serve as reaffirmation of the commitment of the PNU in the many fields of Christian endeavor. *Article XXVI, Section 2 of the Constitution and By Laws of the Polish National Union.* As the PNCC celebrates Spojnia Sunday – let us always remember to support the efforts of our sister organization as the PNU continues to support the members, clergy and parishes of the PNCC. For more information on the Polish National Union please contact your PNU Branch Secretary, visit the web site www.pnu.org, or call the PNU Home Office at 800-724-6352 for more information.

CELEBRATING 100% PNU FAMILIES – This year’s Spojnia Sunday contest will celebrate our 100% PNU families and aligns to the PNCC 2018 Future Direction “Year of the Family.” Send us a family photo where everyone in the picture is a PNU member. It can be any combination of your family and extended family, but the photo must contain two or more people and PNU members only. Social membership counts as PNU membership. Provide the full names for everyone shown in the photo and mail the photo to: Kathy Nemkovich, 37 Winthrop St., Fall River, MA 02721, or email to kathynemkovich@gmail.com. Deadline to receive photos is November 1, 2018. All photos will be entered into a drawing to win \$250 and may be used in future PNU materials. The drawing will be held in December at the PNU Board meeting. If you are not yet a 100% PNU family, you can sign up for PNU membership on Spojnia Sunday or at any time before November 1, 2018 by contacting your Branch Secretary or District Director, visiting us online at www.PNU.org, email us at info@pnu.org, or call the home office at 800-724-6352.

THE PHOTO BOOTH IS COMING!! – PNU Spójnia Sunday 2018. Are you a 100% PNU Family? If so stop by our “Photo Booth” downstairs in the Parish hall on September 23, 2018 “Spójnia Sunday”!

You can have your photo taken as a 100% PNU family and enter the 100% PNU family photo contest with a \$250 prize. Deadline for contest entry is November 1, 2018.

Not yet a 100% PNU family? Not a problem! Sign up for PNU membership on Spójnia Sunday or at any time before November 1, 2018 by Contacting your Branch Secretary, Email

info@pnu.org or calling 570-344-1513 Visit us online via www.PNU.org. Be sure to check out the Polish National Union Facebook page!

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Tuesday, September 18

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Thursday, September 20

8:30 am – Healing Mass

Saturday, September 22

8:30 am – Mass of the day

YOU CAN ENTER TO WIN!

Joan Scheuneman Branch 44 Dorothy

Andrzejewski Branch 323

John Andrzejewski, CFO/Secretary Mary Ann

Stankowski, PNU Board of Directors

Mari Jane Stankowski, PNU Board of Directors

2018 Education and Youth Commission Raffle – The Education & Youth Commission of the Polish National Union of America is once again hosting a raffle to benefit our College Stipend Program. **The raffle will be held on December 6th, 2018 @ the PNU Home Office, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, Pa. Donations for these tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 tickets for \$10.00.**

First Prize – \$400 cash

Second Prize – Fitbit Charge 2

Third Prize – Google Home Speaker

We greatly appreciate your support and generosity as we continue to support the ministries of this commission to benefit our youth. Monetary donations are always graciously accepted towards the funding for this stipend program, and can be mailed directly to the following address: **Education and Youth Commission of the PNU**

c/o Mary Ann Stankowski

1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, Pa 18505

(checks made payable to Education and Youth Commission).

Thank you, if you have any questions or inquiries please contact Mary Ann Stankowski @ 570-341-0986 or eyc@pnu.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS – The floral pieces at the high altar today are offered to the glory of God and in honor of James & the late Carol Merkel.

FLOWER FUND – is accepting donations in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Checks should be made out to the ANS Flower Fund and can be dropped off in the Parish Office. Any questions contact Connie Tellep at jtellep@nep.net or [570-222-4409](tel:570-222-4409).

FOOD PANTRY – Please bring **pasta** on Sunday, **September 23rd** for our One Hot Meal Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of this important project.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – **Sept 17** – Dorothy & Ernest Pettinato; **Sept 19** – Michael & Kathy Matza

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – **Sept 17** – Joseph Wedlock, Jr.; **Sep 18** – Marie Gorgol; **Sep 19** – Cheryl Lukasiewicz; **Sept 20** – Elizabeth Zygmunt; **Sept 21** – Marlene Hill, Frank Farrence

FRIENDS in the HOSPITAL – **Sept 14th** – *Mt. View: Rosalie Aebli, Amelia Liska, Paulette Wincovich; *St. Mary’s Villa: Clara Zlotowski

FRIENDS RECOVERING at HOME – Annette Cimino, Jean Cwynar, Joann Edwards, Ceil Gorgol, Josephine Kwiatkowski, Helen Lukasiewicz, Bob Matylewicz, Chester Nezelkewicz, Stanley (Ozzie) Ocwieja, Jean Sherman, Jake Stankowski. Please pray for them.

