

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

Mrs. Beth Howden – Organist / Director of Music

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary time November 18, 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

TODAY

SOCL Class following 9:30 mass

St. Stanislaus Handbell rehearsal following SOCL Class

10:55 am – Adult Forum

MONDAY, November 19th

6:30 pm – Bible Study, Chancery conference room

TUESDAY, November 20th

6:30 pm – Parish Committee Meeting

6:30 pm – Cathedral Chorale rehearsal

SATURDAY, November 24th

11:00 am – Memorial Mass for the Right Reverend Stanley Bilinski, Cathedral

NEXT SUNDAY, November 25th, Solemnity – Christ the King

Holy Mass: **8:00 am** Traditional **9:30 am** Contemporary **11:15 am** Cathedral Chapel, Tripp Park

2019 LECTOR BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED! – All lectors may pick up their 2019 book in the Parish Office.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE for the Scranton Seniorate will be held at **Providence of God, Lithuanian Parish** in Scranton (1743 North Sumner Avenue, Scranton) on **Saturday, December 1st at 5:00 PM.** All are invited.

ANS RAFFLE WINNERS – The ANS would like to offer their CONGRATULATIONS to the winner of The Mount Airy Weekend Getaway.... Dana Pugliese!! ENJOY Your Weekend Dana!!!

The 2nd Prize Winner, \$ 25.00 Gift Card from Gerrity's Supermarket.....Helen Lukasiewicz!!!

Once again we would like to Thank All who supported our HARVEST DINNER EVENT on October 21st!!! God Bless, *Kathy Michalina*

BREAKFAST BUFFET WITH SANTA – YMS of R Branch #1 hosts their annual Breakfast Buffet with Santa on **Sunday, December 9th after the 9:30 am Holy Mass in the Parish Youth Center.** Tickets are Adults: \$8.00; Children ages 4 to 12: \$3.00; Children ages 3 and under: Free. Please make reservations in the Parish Hall after 9:30 am Mass on Sundays or call Frank Gerardi at 570-587-3672. There will be a **limited number of tickets for sale at the door**, so please make your **reservations by Thursday, December 6th.** **Set up will be Saturday, December 8th** at 6:30 pm. Any help given is much appreciated.

ST. STANISLAUS YOUTH BASKETBALL NEWS – Sign-ups for the upcoming season are underway. **ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED ALONG WITH PAYMENT BY 12/16/2018.** Forms and information about the league are located downstairs in the church hall, and on the church's website. Please either mail or drop off the completed forms along with the payment to Jake Stankowski c/o Southside Floral Shop, 1025 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18505. Forms can also be brought on Friday, December 14th, 2018.

The cost for each player is \$40.00 and \$20.00 for each additional child within the same family (living in the same household).

Practice/Sign-ups – Friday, December 14th, 2018 in the youth center.

6:30-7:00 p.m. for PreK-2nd grades

7:00- 7:45 p.m. for 3rd – 8th grades

7:45 – 8:30 p.m. for 9th – 11th grades

Games will tentatively start on Friday, January 4th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

A schedule of game times and age groups will soon follow. Thank You as always for your support! Any questions please contact Jake Stankowski @ (570-341-0986) or Art Golembeski @ 570-575-5231.

DISTRICT 1 CHRISTMAS PARTY – District 1 PNU will be holding their annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at the lower level of the PNCC Center, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA at 6:00 pm in conjunction with the quarterly meeting. The cost per person will be \$15.00. A buffet dinner featuring roast beef and breaded pork chops will be provided. There will also be a raffle, games and Christmas carol sing-a-long. Please make your reservations with Joan Scheuneman at 570-344-1513 by November 29, 2018. All District 1 members and their families are welcome to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – As a community service project, St. Stanislaus UYA is partnering with Wreaths Across America to support their mission to Remember, Honor and Teach about America's veterans. **On December 15, 2018, we will have a wreath-laying ceremony** at our cemetery on Kane Street in conjunction with ones occurring at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,400 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

We will be **selling wreaths now through November 30th** so that each veteran at rest in our cemetery will be honored and remembered. **We have started counting and identifying each veteran's marker.** To date we **have counted well over 250 graves**, and we know there are more. Please help us by sharing your loved one's names with us so they can be counted.

We hope you will **support this effort by donating \$15 to sponsor a wreath** in honor of or in memory of an American hero and show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. **For each wreath sold, the UYA will earn \$5.** Please make checks payable to: St. Stanislaus UYA.

The UYA will have a table set up after each 9:30 mass now through the end of November to accept donations. You can also contact Maria Hughes or any UYA member for more information. To read more about Wreaths Across America's mission, go to wreathscrossamerica.org. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this important project.

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 main altar today are offered to the glory of God and in memory Joseph & Stella Trela offered by Bruce & Shirley Melesky.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS – Please consider donating \$20.00 to help decorate our Altars for Christmas. Donations may be made in memory or honor of loved ones. Checks should be made to the ANS Flower Fund. Checks may be dropped off at the Parish Office or you can contact Connie Tellep at [570-2224409](tel:570-2224409) or jteellep@nep.net by December 16th.

FOOD PANTRY – Please bring **Spaghetti's** on Sunday, **November 25th** for our One Hot Meal Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of this important project.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – **Nov 18** – Ashley Godek, W. Michael Umerich; **Nov 19** – David Zackoski; **Nov 20** – Nicholas Pfohl, LuAnn Kaszuba, **Nov 21** – Carol Schmidt, **Nov 22** – Frank Adams

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday, November 19

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Tuesday, November 20

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Friday, November 23

8:30 pm – Mass of the day

Saturday, November 24

8:30 am – sp. Sandra & Michael

Rosa by Gary Bonk

11:00 am – Memorial Mass for

Bishop Stanley Bilinski (Cathedral)

FRIENDS in the HOSPITAL – November 16th – *Mt. View: Rosalie Aebli, Amelia Liska, Paulette Wincovich

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.

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!



IT'S NOT ABOUT THE TURKEY - Please feel free to use these Thanksgiving table graces or adapt them for use at your festival meal this Thanksgiving Day:

Our Father in Heaven, we give thanks for the pleasure of gathering together for this occasion. We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands. We give thanks for life, the freedom to enjoy it all and all other blessings. As we partake of this food, we pray for health and strength to carry on and try to live as You would have us. This we ask in the name of Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen!

Dear Lord, we are thankful for this day, set aside to honor all the ways You bless us with Your goodness, love, and grace. We are thankful for the people at this table who add a variety of wonderful things to our lives just by being who they are. We are thankful for the food we are about to eat, which You created for our nourishment and pleasure. Most of all, Lord, we thank You for always being there for us, guiding us, encouraging us, comforting us and blessing us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your son. Amen!

Psalm 100 - Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!
Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him, bless his name!
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Happy Thanksgiving

The Rorate Mass
(new hour this year: 6:30 am, just before dawn)

The *Rorate* Mass takes its name from the first words of the introit (the entrance song) of the Mass on the fourth Sunday in Advent: “*Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum*”; “Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just One” ([Isaiah 45:8](#)). *Rorate* Masses are traditional in German-speaking countries, Hungary and the Czech Republic, as well as in Poland.

The *Rorate* Mass has been celebrated in Poland since the 13th century. A special candle was placed on the altar and lit. (Nowadays, there is often a special Marian candle lit during *Rorate* Masses.) The custom of lighting a special candle is said to go back to the reign of Bolesław Wstydlivy, husband of St. Kunegunda. A menorah was placed on the altar and its seven candles were lit one at a time by different members of the congregation. (To this day, sometimes you will see a menorah shining in the windows of Polish homes during Advent and the Christmas season.) In Bolesław’s parish, Bolesław lit the first candle, a cardinal lit the second, followed by a senator, a nobleman, a knight, a townsman and a peasant. As they lit the candles, each man said, “I am ready for the last judgment day.”

In Poland, the *Rorate* Mass traditionally begins before dawn, every day during Advent. (These days, for convenience, it is often held in the late afternoon, especially in cities.) Children walk to church through the darkness, carrying lit lanterns. The church is in darkness except for the light of candles and lanterns. The hymn *Rorate caeli* begins **in darkness, symbolizing the darkness of the world before the Light of Christ appeared at Christmas**. During the hymn, the priests and the children, carrying their lanterns, process into the church. At the end of the hymn, prayers are said and then the Gloria is sung, and during the Gloria, the lights of the church are put on. **By the end of Mass, the sun is starting to rise; it is the dawn of a new day and a reminder of the True Light of Christ that will banish the darkness of sin and death.**

Spiritually, Advent is the dawn. It is still not the bright light of Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for something exceedingly joyful that is yet to come. It is a time of penance, when our souls are still struggling through the darkness, seeking the Light. There is a longing and expectancy in Advent. Our candles and lanterns at a *Rorate* Mass are symbols of our longing for the coming of the Savior whose light is already dawning.

Rorate caeli desuper

Traditionally, the *Rorate* Mass begins with a procession while *Rorate caeli* is chanted. This plainchant breathes anticipation so that one can almost taste the coming Messiah in its text and music.

The text begins with the rich and evocative images: “The heavens sprinkle dew from above, and the clouds rain justice; let the earth be opened, and bring forth the Just One.”

The invocation of dew alludes to the blessing of Israel by the dying Moses ([Dt 33:28](#)), to numerous prophetic words about the new Jerusalem for God’s people (for instance, [Zech 8:12](#)), and the deeply intimate language of God speaking through the prophet Hosea and promising to be Himself “dew to Israel.”

Remarks delivered by Bishop Bernard at the funeral ceremonies of the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, Bishop of the Western Diocese, All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, IL, November 8, 2018:

As I address all of you, especially Deb and Josh and Hannah, I will describe theological concepts and truths, but I will not use any theological terminology.

Many, many months before the 2012 special Synod to elect bishops, the then Fr Stanley Bilinski invited me to attend a seminar on liturgy with him in New York City. It was across the river from Bayonne, NJ where I lived, so it was an invitation easy to accept and one I looked forward to.

During our time together there, we spoke of Church matters, of cabbages and kings, and of how he was considering being a candidate for bishop, and, he said, I should follow him and do the same.

I just waved him off as I always did during the past ten years up to that point when others suggested the same thing to me. I told him we have a goofy system of church administration with the bishops forced to be pastors of one of the many parishes in their Dioceses. I told him it's a ridiculous system, that no viable Church does that. Despite that protestation, Fr Stan said he was serious about my considering the candidacy, and, here it comes, that he'll be praying for me. I said, "Don't bother." He just smiled.

On other occasions when we would see each other, he said he's still praying for me and my candidacy. And I said, "Stop doing that, you're scaring me!"

I was nominated twice for the 2012 episcopal elections, and twice I wrote the Prime Bishop a note of 'thanks but no thanks.'

Then something profound happened to me and I had an experience such that suddenly it made sense for me to contact schools and universities to gather the needed documents and records of my work there. The first and only person I called about this was Stanley – to tell him I didn't know what was going on but that I seem to be doing this on autopilot, not really in control. I told him what happened to me in that strange experience. Then he said, "See? I'm praying for you always. I never stopped." I realized his comment, "See?" didn't mean "take a peek," but rather "observe, Bernie, realize what's happening here." He was telling me, "See this for what it is. See" – in the sense of 'behold.'

I swore him to secrecy on all of this, and asked him to send one of the candidacy requirements lists which I destroyed with each letter of 'thanks but no thanks' that I sent to the Primate. Stan agreed to confidentiality, but I warned him, "Look, there's no guarantees on anything just because you're

sending them to me. I just need to see them." "Of course," he said. "But," he added, "this is it, Bernie. See it for what it is. I'm praying for you." This time – I didn't tell him to "stop doing that."

In all of this he led me, as a guide. He didn't lead out in front, pulling me into something I was uncertain of; nor did he push me into it from behind. Rather, he was always at my side, walking with me, guiding me, praying for me, for my discernment, helping me to see what was happening in my life, and what my strange experience meant overall.

He was a special person for me in my special need. He supported me, encouraged me, loved me, yes, and prayed me into the ecclesial position I hold today. And by God's grace, I ended up right there – next to him – for consecration just as he said I should back there at the liturgical seminar in New York City.

I owe Bishop Stan so much. I couldn't have had a steadier, more faithful guide than he through my spiritual tumult and confusion of that period. He saw. He prayed. He interpreted. He passed through my life at a time when I needed someone exactly like him. I will miss him deeply – and so will our entire Church.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.
Amen.

*A special life in the service of his Lord.
1953 – 2018
Stanley Bilinski, priest and bishop*

