

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

Second Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2019



And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

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, March 18th

6:30 pm – Bible Study, Chancery conference room

TUESDAY, March 19th

6:30 pm – Parish Committee, monthly meeting

WEDNESDAY, March 20th

7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross, YMS of R readers

7:45 pm – Tenebrae Singers rehearsal

THURSDAY, March 21st

6:30 pm – Cathedral Chorale rehearsal

FRIDAY, March 22nd

12:00 noon – Stations of the Cross, lower Cathedral Chapel

SATURDAY, March 23rd

9:15 – 10:30 am – PRIVATE Confession, chapel, lower Cathedral

10:00 am – 1:00 pm – SCRANTON SENIORATE LENTEN RETREAT (see announcement)

NEXT SUNDAY, March 24th – Third Sunday of Lent

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

SCHEDULE of READERS for STATIONS of the CROSS – YMS of R: **March 20th**; Cathedral Chorale: **March 27th**; Parish Committee: **April 3rd**; UYA: **April 10th**.

CREATIVE HELP NEEDED – We are requesting someone to create a **four sided, floor length, black covering for a small square table, approximately 30 inches square**. We will use this table on Good Friday to support the cross of veneration at a higher level than on the floor. We hope by this means to make everyone's veneration of the cross less burdensome and more fulfilling.

THANK YOU SO MUCH! – One Hot Meal would like to thank the Society of Irish Women for sponsoring the March meal and for also volunteering at the meal as well. We would also like to thank Mt. Pleasant Girl Scout Troop 50141 for volunteering this month and for their generous donation of bread and peanut butter. We truly appreciate their generosity and help!!

PASTORAL LENTEN MESSAGE – So – I hope you’ve had the opportunity to see two items I’ve included in the recent bulletins. One is entitled *Pre-Lenten Preparations* and the other, *One of the Four Lenten Disciplines*, which deal with Great Lent as well as your discipleship as Polish National Catholics.

As you know, all the various activities of Lent that Father and I have prepared for you for this year, form the basis for your celebration of Jesus’ Resurrection. Which is to say, that your Easter celebration is founded on God’s call for your repentance - in anticipation of that celebration. Repentance is basically our realignment with God, or our return to God. I say ‘a return to God’ because our hearts tend to gravitate to anything *but* God. In other words, our hearts tend to cling to sin like a magnet clings to steel. That’s why returning to God requires a deep and sometimes painful reorientation. But by God’s grace, during the coming Great Lent, you and Father and I’ll work together on pointing our hearts towards him whom they should cling to: God.

I’d like to briefly mention some of the means by which we’ll work together on our repentance before God during Lent. From the item, *One of the Four Lenten Disciplines*, I wrote: “Remember the four spiritual disciplines of Lent: (1) Prayer, (2) Almsgiving, (3) Bible reading and (4) Abstinence from flesh foods each Wednesday and Friday, **along with** abstinence from the most serious of your moral failings or weaknesses.” I went on to say, “As you give up something for seven weeks that you are particularly fond of, abstain **as well** from those things that distance yourselves from God, [things that you may be equally fond of], such as greed, unkindness, untruth, disregard for others, self-centeredness. As you abstain from these take on their opposite virtues instead.” What I mean here is that the four Lenten disciplines are the ways you and I will involve ourselves in the goal of reorienting our wills and hearts so that we come closer to God and his ways.

So I think a good thing to do is to mark - **on** your household calendars and **in** your iPhone calendars - the dates and times of all the (1) Lenten devotions and worship services, the (2) special spiritual events and the (3) private confessions. The bulletins conveniently provide all these details for you. Then – when you’ve completed that - commit yourself to making these entries your **high** priorities for you and for your children for the coming seven weeks, including the dates and times of the services and Masses of Holy Week – beginning with Palm Sunday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Arrange now to make time for these (1) prayerful opportunities and (2) for bible reading each day and (3) for sharing your resources with those in need.

Sacrifice the time for all of this during the coming season because time is the most precious commodity you could ever sacrifice for the purpose of coming closer to God and glorifying his holy Name. **Sacrifice your precious time** for these things in the same way the saints sacrificed their lives. **Do violence to your personal schedules** in order to accommodate all these holy efforts spent in reorienting your hearts away from sin towards God and his ways.

You know only too well, your time is a priceless commodity, and your sacrifice of it - to God - for these spiritual purposes is seen by God as pleasing and acceptable and holy - because time is the one commodity you can never replace once you’ve spent it. Time is more valuable than money. When on

your deathbed, it’ll be more days and hours here on earth rather than more dollars and cents here on earth that you’ll desire most!

So – now you have some knowledge about Lent, and hopefully you have a broader understanding of the purposes of the disciplines we utilize in Lent. It only remains now for you - in your discipleship - to sincerely and enthusiastically participate in these holy practices.

I will **expect** all of you - and **especially** your children - to be present here at the Cathedral to participate in your seven-week sacrifice of time – time spent in the reorientation of your hearts and lives towards God, time spent in repentance.

We do all this as disciples of our Christ, who was wounded for our sins and who suffered for our sins. We do all of this because we are his disciples. May you all have a fruitful and blessed Great Lent this year.

Bishop Bernard



LENTEN SERVICES AND EVENTS

A rich array of spiritual opportunities is listed below for all our parishioners to avail themselves of during the coming season of Great Lent which begins this week:

Fridays – 12 noon – Stations of the Cross, chapel, lower Cathedral

Wednesdays – 7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross, Cathedral

Various societies and parish ministries will read the meditations each week.

(Cathedral Chapel, Tripp Park attendees may worship at the hour given above on either day)

Saturdays – 9:15 – 10:00 am – Private Confession, chapel, lower Cathedral

Saturday – **March 23rd** – 10:30 am to 1:00 pm – Scranton Seniorate Lenten Retreat, Saint Adalbert’s Church, Dickson City

Holy Tuesday – **April 16th** – 4:00 pm – Chrism Mass, Cathedral

Holy Thursday – **April 18th** – 7:00 pm – Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist

Good Friday – **April 19th** – 12:00 to 3:00 pm – Holy Hour, Stations, Mass of the Pre-sanctified, opening of the Tomb of Jesus

Good Friday – **April 19th** – 7:00 pm – Tenebrae, chanted, gentlemen of the Cathedral

Holy Saturday – **April 20th** – 4:00 pm – Vigil of the Risen One

DIGITAL DAILY BIBLE READINGS – The daily Bible readings for Lent that are outlined in your “Sermon on the Mount” bookmarks can be accessed online, both on your computers and your iPhones / Androids at the following website: BibleGateway.com.

On the computer: enter the book name and chapter at the top then scroll to the designated verses. On the phones: tap on the book name already given above (whatever it may be), then scroll to the book, chapter and verse you need in the field that opens to you, tap on that citation below to open that section of the book for your reading for that day. It is possible to select one of over twenty versions of the Bible in English as well by tapping the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Select versions of the Bible on this site in Polish, Somali or in any other language as desired.

SCRANTON SENIORATE LENTEN RETREAT – Please place your name on the sign-up sheet in the lower auditorium today to indicate you’ll participate in our Seniorate retreat this coming **Saturday, the 23rd, at St Adalbert’s, Dickson City from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm** (light luncheon included). With this Lenten event, we’ll be complying with the guidance of our Future Directions Sub-Committee to enact our discipleship through an important and valuable spiritual exercise during this Lenten season. Plan to sacrifice to God this Saturday your most valuable commodity of time for a few hours in prayer, reflection and fellowship.

CATHEDRAL YOUTH GROUP NEWS – The St. Stanislaus Youth Group will once again be making their “Homemade Bread” for the Easter Holiday. Orders can be placed downstairs in the church hall, for Plain or Raisin, at a cost of \$10.00 per loaf, or contact Jacob or Mary Stankowski @ 570- 341-0986. **Deadline for all orders will be March 17th, 2019 (may be earlier if quota is reached sooner, so please place your orders early). The bread will be available for pick-up on Saturday, March 30th, 2019, around 2:30-3:00pm (in the Youth Center), or following the 8:00 & 9:30 a.m. mass on Sunday, March 31st, 2019 (downstairs in the church hall). Since a limited amount of bread will be made we request all orders, especially plain should be placed as soon as possible.** Once again we would like to “thank you” for your continued support of our organization and as always for making this fundraiser such a great success!

BREAKFAST BUFFET with the EASTER BUNNY – Sponsored by Branch #1 of the YMS of R takes place **Sunday, April 7th** after 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Youth Center. **Tickets are: Adults - \$9.00; Children age 4-12 - \$3.00.** Please make reservations in the Church Auditorium after 9:30 am Mass on Sundays or call Frank Gerardi 570-587-3672. There will be a *limited* number of tickets for sale at the door, so reserve yours by **Thursday, April 4th**.

BREAKFAST SET-UP – will take place at **6:30 pm on Saturday, April 6th**. Any help given is much appreciated.

SHHHHHH.....IT'S A SECRET!! – Our ANS Sister, Chris Ross will be making some of her delicious soups 5 out of 7 Wednesdays during this Lenten Season. Unfortunately there will be no pre-orders & will be available only on Wednesdays after Lenten Devotions. The cost is \$10.00 per quart. Proceeds will benefit the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society!
Thank You & Enjoy!

PUBLIC AUCTION – YOU'RE INVITED – Our ANS catering service ladies will serve Polish/American food items at a public auction to be held Sunday, March 24th at 12 noon. Professional auctioneer John Regan will have our Youth Center full to capacity with antiques, collectables, gold/silver coins, paintings, and so much more. Volunteers can call Sue Techmanski, 570-881-1651. Please support our ANS team and join us for the best lunch in town! Very, very exciting happenings!

19TH ANNUAL MISSION and EVANGELISM WORKSHOP – This year’s theme is “**Identity: Who We Are in Christ**” and will be hosted by the Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT **Friday, March 29 - Sunday, March 31, 2019.** This year’s Mission Workshop will be held at Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, Connecticut. Our accommodation is at **Comfort Suites** located at 64 Knotter Dr., Southington, CT 06489. We pray that you will consider joining us.

DISTRICT 1 DELEGATE ELECTION MEETING – Come out and vote to elect delegate(s) to attend the 31st General Convention aboard the Royal Caribbean Allure of the Seas! This important election meeting for PNU District 1 will be held on March 28, 2019 at the PNU Home Office, 1002 Pittston Ave, Scranton, PA 18505 at 7:00 PM. An alternate date in the event of inclement weather has been set for April 4th. There are 13 delegate positions to be elected. The cruise convention is set to sail from September 29, 2019 - October 6, 2019 and will include stops at St. Maarten, Haiti, and Puerto Rico. If you are interested in becoming a delegate please make sure to attend this important meeting. Please contact District Director Joan Scheuneman if you would like more information at 570-344-1513 or Executive03@pnu.org. All District 1 members are invited to come.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS – Please help adorn our Alters for Easter by donating \$20.00 in honor or memory of a loved one. Checks may be made out to ANS Flower Fund. Checks can be mailed or left in the Parish Office by 4/6/19. Any questions contact Connie Tellep at 570-222-4409 or jtellerp@nep.net.

FOOD PANTRY – Please bring **canned vegetables** on Sunday, **March 24th** for our One Hot Meal Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of this important project.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday, March 18

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Tuesday, March 19

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Wednesday, March 20

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Thursday, March 21

8:30 am – Healing Mass

Friday, March 22

8:30 – Mass of the day

Saturday, March 23

8:30 am – sp. Thomas Repecki by family, by brother & sister-in-law

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – **Mar 18** - Jean Pucher, **Mar 19** - Gretchen Middleton; **Mar 20** - Katie Tempaugh, Susan Nitch; **Mar 21** - John Kotula; **Mar 23** - Deanna McConnell

FRIENDS in the HOSPITAL – **March 15th** – *Mt. View: Rosalie Aebli, Paulette Wincovich

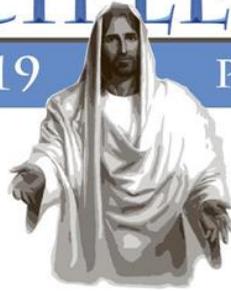
FRIENDS RECOVERING at HOME – Annette Cimino, Jean Cwynar, Joann Edwards, Ceil Gorgol, Josephine Kwiatkowski, Helen Lukasiewicz, Bob Matylewicz, Chester Nezelkewicz, Stanley (Ozzie) Ocwieja, Jean Sherman, Jake Stankowski. Please pray for them.

Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council
Polish National Catholic Church

DISCIPLESHIP

2019

PNCC



March, 2019

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

As we begin this Great and Holy Lenten Season during Discipleship: 2019 we share with you "Capturing the Light During Lent" by Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill.

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but rather he emptied himself..."
~Philippians 2:5-7

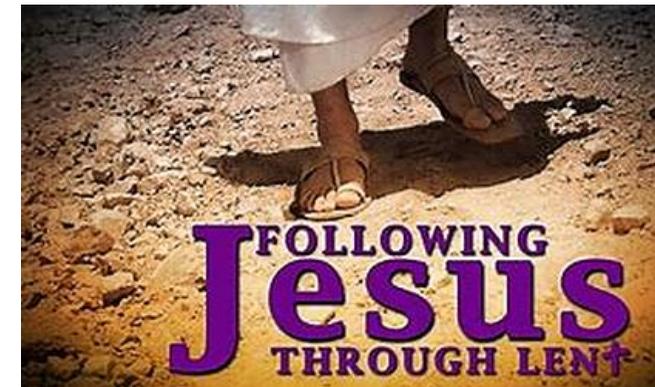
Do you call them "fireflies" or "lightning bugs?" Last summer, I saw a map that suggested it all depends on where you live. According to the geographical data, those who live in the Eastern Diocese of our Church probably call them "fireflies," those residing in the Central or Buffalo-Pittsburgh Dioceses likely refer to them as "lightning bugs," with some of each group among Polish National Catholics within the Western and Canadian Dioceses.

Where I live, they're definitely "lightning bugs," and they feature in some of my fondest, most vivid memories of the summer nights of my childhood, when we, empty jars in our hands, would embark upon excited expeditions into the dark wilds of our backyards in hopes of catching some of these exotic creatures which so enthralled our young imaginations. While it was thrilling to catch even one, the best part of the entire endeavor was a sort of victory parade when we would hurriedly walk back to the porch together with our jars collectively flickering enough radiance to illumine our pathway home, even if just a little. Arriving back at home base, we would spend some time contemplating the magical

glow, before removing the lids to watch them fly away, perhaps to be pursued by another group just down the street. Now, I'm willing to bet that many of you—regardless of where you grew up or what you called them—can share a similar story, but even if you were never part of such an adventure, I am sure you can imagine it and recognize the one piece of gear that was absolutely essential to our nightly pursuit: *a jar*. After all, catching them in one's hands could get a bit messy if one was not careful—obviously counterproductive to the overall goal—so *a clean, empty jar* was an absolute must.

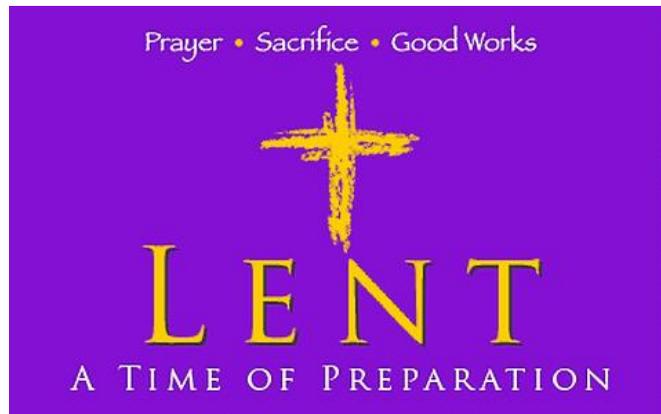
As we all prepare to embark upon the spiritual adventure of Great and Holy Lent, those jars that we used night after summer night as children can be an image to help us reflect upon our discipleship and the Lord's call to ongoing repentance. Far too many Christians aim way too low, seemingly hoping to just slide by, avoiding the "big ticket" sins and being a decent enough person to perhaps sneak into heaven through the back gate when the angels who guard it are off duty. This is not, however, the goal that Jesus set for His disciples, when He decreed that "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). We are not charged by the Lord to become somewhat respectable or usually not-all-that-bad. He has *much* greater things in mind for us: participating in His own infinite Holiness...being fully transformed as we come closer to Him and share in His goodness...becoming radiant with Undying Light in a world still so much in darkness. This is the truest understanding of our human nature and its authentic purpose: *we are created to be vessels of God's own divine life in the world*.

In this sense, we are sort of like those jars, right? However, the Light that we are fashioned to carry does not come from any creature—even one as uniquely beautiful and mysterious as a lightning bug/firefly. Instead, this Light of which we now speak is the Light we profess in the Creed: Eternal Light, Light without another source, Light Itself. This Light is *the very life of the Triune God*, and we do not have to wander around in the darkness with the hopes of somehow catching and containing God—as if we ever could—because He so freely gives Himself to us. He invites us to a complete union with Him so that we might fully become who we are, the unique bearers of his radiant image and likeness.



We do, however, have to prepare ourselves to receive God's life by repenting, which is to say by becoming clean and empty. We must be cleansed not just from particular sins but even more from our sinfulness, that deep-seated fallenness that expresses itself in so many ways, but always originates with our staking a false claim to ultimate authority over ourselves. To counter this, we continually surrender our lives to our Jesus, acknowledging Him alone as our Lord and Teacher. At the same time, we need to spiritually declutter our inner selves, actively pursuing worldly detachment, in order to make room for Him. One way to discern this is to ask whether certain parts of our lives are really under Jesus' control: relationships, money, possessions, status, education, authority, employment, recreation and entertainment, and everything else. While some aspects of our lives, not sinful in and of themselves, must simply be put back into their proper place, other things will have to be completely discarded. After an honest and thorough self-assessment with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can then ask Jesus for the strength to change our way of living accordingly.

Becoming interiorly clean and empty is a daily goal of each disciple of Jesus, as we take up our crosses and follow the example of the one who emptied Himself, but during Lent we ramp up our efforts. In this year of refocused discipleship, then, let us not think of Lent as a burdensome chore or something to be endured until Easter. Instead, let us recognize it as an adventure to be enthusiastically engaged...like children running off into the night to "capture light," but not by trapping it within glass jars. Instead, let us invite the Light to catch us, so to speak, and enter to dwell within souls that are repentant and well prepared, cleansed of sin and emptied of worldliness. Changed little by little through our diligent cooperation with indispensable grace of the Most Holy Trinity, we may go forth together to illumine the pathways of the entire world so that others may joyfully join us on our never-ending journey of discipleship with Christ. Then, wherever we live and worship as Polish National Catholics, there will be no debate as to what we are all called—Disciples of Jesus—and through us the prophecy of Isaiah may be fulfilled: "then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard" (58:8).



We are called to do try new and innovative ways to have adult faith conversations. How have you considered this gathering? "Soup, Sandwich and Sermon", "Wine and Cheese Faith Conversation"? An adult forum has started at St. Stanislaus Cathedral and is progressing along as adults gather to discuss their faith while the youth attend School of Christian Living classes - a wonderful Wine and Cheese Faith Conversation was tried and was extremely successful at Blessed Trinity. Everyone is looking forward to the next one!

Please keep these church-wide undertakings 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.

As we begin this Lenten Journey before us, may we, clean and empty ourselves of sin and willing take up the cross and following our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee
Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

