St. Stanislaus Cathedral

www.saintstanislauspncc.org

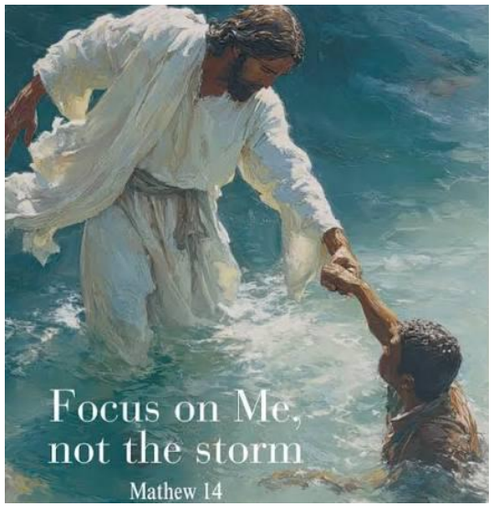
Email: Events@SaintStanislausPNCC.org

The First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church

529 East Locust St. Scranton, PA 18505 – Office 570-961-9231

The Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki, DD, pastor – bishop@saintstanislauspncc.org
The Reverend Sean Dodd, assistant pastor – frdodd@saintstanislauspncc.org
Ms. Rebecca Elfman – Organist / Director of Music

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 9, 2026



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
4:00 pm Contemporary, *lower chapel*

Parish Office: 570-961-9231 –**Youth Center:** 570-961-8364
Fred Aebli: Parishchair@saintstanislauspncc.org
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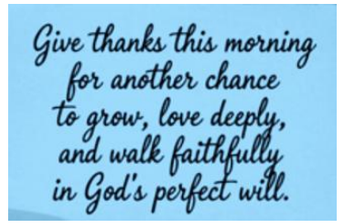

Lectors:
8/9 – 8:00 – John Andrzejewski
9:30 – Dave Seliga
11:15 – David Rychleski
8/16 – 8:00 – Kathy Michalina
9:30 – Patrick McHugh
11:15 – David Rychleski

Wednesday, August 12th
7:00 pm – Gospel of Luke Bible Study

Saturday, August 15th
10:00 am – Holy Mass, *Cathedral*, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Next Sunday, August 16th – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Holy Mass: **8:00 am** Traditional **9:30 am** Contemporary
11:15 am Cathedral Chapel, Tripp Park
4:00 pm Contemporary, *lower chapel*

Flea Market Thank You! – What could I say??? What an Amazing Event!!!!!! THANK YOU SO MUCH EVERYONE! We are STILL counting and selling some items. When the Committee gets a total we will pass it along, stay tuned. The smiles, the laughter, the full belly's!!!!

Thank You,
Flea Market Committee

One Hot Meal Food Pantry – Please bring **canned vegetables** next Sunday for the One Hot Meal food pantry. Thank you for your support.

Gerrity's Fresh Grocer Cards Available – Linda Seliga has graciously volunteered to sell $25.00 Gerrity's Fresh Grocer Cards after both the 8:00 and 9:30 mass on Sunday mornings. All proceeds benefit the St. Stanislaus Cathedral Parish.

YMS of R Grove Rental – Hurry, hurry, hurry to reserve your day at the YMS of R grove for 2026! If you would like to reserve the YMS of R Grove or a summer outing, please contact Artie Golembeski at 570-575-5231 or via email at artbowl@msn.com. Spots are filling up fast. So, if you have a family reunion or a birthday party coming up, why not reserve the grove for the day.

Dormition / Assumption of our Theotokos / the Blessed Virgin Mary – This coming Saturday, the 15th, we observe the falling asleep (Dormition), *i.e.*, the dying, of Mary, the Mother of God (Theotokos) precisely because she is Mother of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. This is why throughout her life we witness a constant heavenly presence. All of Mary's earthly life was directed to the heavenly life. As a child she went to the temple, then considered by the Jews to be heaven on earth. She also was visited by an angel. Her knowledge of God and his Kingdom made it possible for her to accept the words of an angel and to act according to God's will. And, as she was carrying in her womb the Son of God, she herself became part of heaven and the heavenly Kingdom. And from that time on all her thoughts and all her existence were surrounded by the heavenly presence. She was the only one who knew her Son completely, as only she could, and no one else. It was given to her to be, using Orthodox imagery here, the Living Altar of the Son of God.

Let us glorify the Blessed Virgin Mary always, keeping her as the supreme example of virtue and the true way to the heavenly Kingdom.

Wildflowers, herbs, grasses and the Solemnity of the Assumption / Dormition of Mary, August 15th

In Poland, Aug. 15 is called *Matki Boskiej Zielnej* – Blessed Mother (or Our Lady) of the Herbs. People traditionally gather herbs — not just plants like basil or mint, but all sorts of wildflowers and grain grasses — and bring them to the church for a blessing on Mary's feast. The custom isn't just Polish but was common across Europe by the 10th century. (In Germany, the feast was sometimes called *Krautertag*.)

The blessed flowers and grains were then taken by farmers and scattered in fields and gardens, along with prayers for a good harvest next year. The blessed herbs were kept over the winter because it was believed they had both special healing powers and heightened quality as seasonings.

A traditional blessing reads, in part: "Almighty, everlasting God … with mind and mouth we humbly implore you to bless with your clemency these herbs and fruits of various kinds, and to pour forth upon their natural power, already given by you, the grace of your new blessing; that … they may provide protection against all disease and adversity."

In Eastern churches, the feast is known as the Dormition of the Holy *Theotokos* — (the falling asleep of the God-bearer.) In the Armenian Church, there is a blessing of grapes (*Khaglogh Orhnek*) on Aug. 15.

The grapes are harvested at this time of year and the church celebrates the blessing in memory, in part, of the offering of "first fruits" that dates to Old Testament times. As the Armenian Church in America's website explains: "Jesus Christ was the first born — or the first fruit — of Mary and, as such, was offered to God in the temple."

Countless flowers such as roses and lilies have been associated with Mary – both for her personal attributes and to commemorate her life story. These range from marigolds to Assumption lilies (hostas) and include the royal flower of France – the iris, or fleur-de-lis. So many flowers have been linked to the Virgin that gardens have been planted for her. First called "St. Mary Gardens," now just Mary Gardens, they trace to 15th century Scotland and England. These medieval gardens contained flowers and herbs, many of which are connected by legend to the infancy of Jesus, such as sage and lavender, which were bushes upon which Mary may have spread clothing after washing it on the flight to Egypt.

On Aug. 15, whether we bless herbs, grains, flowers or grapes, or just attend Mass in celebration, the sweetness of the feast and the harvest should remind us of Mary's own words: "The Almighty has done great things for me" (Lk 1:49). And God promises the same for us.

- Patricia Kasten

Altar Flowers – The floral pieces at the high altar today are offered to the glory of God and in memory of Joseph & Nellie Zike offered by Harry & Christine Zike.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday, August 10th
8:30 am – Holy Mass
Tuesday, August 11th
8:30 am – Holy Mass
Wednesday, August 12th
8:30 am – Holy Mass
Thursday, August 13th
8:30 am – Healing Mass
Friday, August 14th
8:30 am – Holy Mass
Saturday, August 15th
10:00 am – Solemnity, Dormition/Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Cathedral, blessing of field and garden flowers & herbs

Altar Flower Fund – What a gesture of affection it would be to make a donation for flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one! To follow through on exactly that, please contact Connie Tellep at 570-222-4409. **A donation of $70** would cover the cost for a Sunday. Of course, a donation of any amount to the fund is always welcomed. Simply send a check made payable to ANS Flower Fund, to the Parish office or just drop the envelope in the collection basket. Thank you for your help in bringing beauty in glorifying God.

Church Dates Ahead

Aug 22nd – 12th Annual YMS of R Golf Tournament, Waymart
Sept 28 - 30th – PNCC Synod, Manchester, NH