

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

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 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
Announcements: Bulletin@saintstanislauspncc.org
Bills/Payments: Treasurer@saintstanislauspncc.org
Parish Information: Office@saintstanislauspncc.org

Lectors:

9/6 – 8:00 – John Andrzejewski
9:30 – Patrick McHugh
11:15 – David Rychleski
9/13 – 8:00 – Kathy Michalina
9:30 – Dave Seliga
11:15 – David Rychleski

Tuesday, September 8th

7:00 pm – Branch 1 YMS of R monthly meeting at the
YMS of R Park

Next Sunday, September 13th – Solemnity of Brotherly Love

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

11:15 am Cathedral Chapel, Tripp Park

4:00 pm Contemporary, *lower chapel*

Time Change for Daily Masses – **9:30 am will be the adjusted time** of daily Masses in the lower chapel **for the next eight days:** Tuesday, September 8th through and including Wednesday, September 16th. Regular daily Mass times will resume on the 17th.

Sincere Thanks to our Women's Blessed Sacrament Society for replenishing the fading linen altar pieces with new beautifully embroidered linens used at the altar for each Mass. These replacement pieces are truly worthy of use in a Cathedral such as ours.

Our Bible study sessions for the Fall will continue on Wednesday, September 23rd at their usual time and place.

The Annual Scranton Seniorate Council Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 19th at 10:00 am. Delegates and Seniorate clergy will convene this yearly meeting at our Parish on that day. We look forward to hosting the representatives of our Seniorate parishes as we gather to consider the work and events our Seniorate will conduct in the coming year.

Enroll for Catechism and SOCL Classes – It is time to begin enrolling for Catechism classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Children for First Holy Communion must be 8 years of age when receiving the Sacrament and 14 years of age when receiving Confirmation. If your child or grandchild is ready for these Sacraments, please contact the parish office at 570-961-9231.

You are encouraged to sign up your child or grandchild for School of Christian Living Classes by calling the parish office as well. Come join the fun and plant the roots of a Christian Education.

Further details about the start of classes and the times will be coming soon.

Come Join our Cathedral Chorale as its members begin rehearsing once again **this Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 pm** for another year of music ministry offered to the glory of almighty God and the spiritual edification of his people, our parishioners. Faithful participation in this ministry requires our choristers to be present at the Cathedral twice each week for a combined total of approximately four to five hours. Under the guidance of Rebecca Elfman, our organist and Director of Music, this living sacrifice our choristers offer results in a meaningful and rewarding experience for them and all who are ministered by them each week.

Pray for our Holy Synod scheduled at the end of this month from the 27th to the 30th in Manchester, NH in the words of prayer given below. Holy Trinity PNCC Cathedral in that city will host this quadrennial. Five of our parishioners, Linda Griscavage, Carol Mikovsky, Carol Nasser, Barbara Nowicki and Judy Snyder, together with Bishop Bernard as pastor will attend this gathering of Polish National Catholics from around the country and Canada. Among the many items scheduled for review will be the election of the next Prime Bishop of the Church as well as three bishops for the Church, two to head two dioceses and one to stand ready to fill in any of those positions when needed.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant to all delegates of the 27th General Synod this month a humble spirit. As they seek your wisdom, lead and guide them in their deliberations. May they be aligned with your desires and plans for your holy Church. Give them the vision, courage and hope for the future as they follow where you lead. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



The 50th Dożynki Festival will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2026 from 11:00 AM till 5:00 PM on the church grounds at Holy Mother of Sorrows, 212 Wyoming Ave., Dupont, PA. The festival will begin with the blessing of the Harvest Wreath at 11:00 AM in the TENT. Prize drawings will be at 5:00 PM

YMS of R Hoagie and Pizza Sale – Branch 1 YMS of R will be holding a fundraising Hoagie and Pizza Sale on Saturday, October 3, 2026. We will be making 12” Italian or turkey hoagies, as well as take and bake plain and pepperoni square pizzas. Pick up will be that Saturday, **in the Youth Center**, from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

The prices are still a bargain! Hoagies will be \$10.00 each, which includes lettuce, tomato and onion, as well as condiments (oil/vinegar, mayo or spicy mustard), all prepackaged on the side. Pizzas will be 12-cut square and are \$17.00 for plain and \$20.00 for pepperoni.

The deadline for orders is Tuesday, September 29, 2026, using the signup sheet in the lower church hall or by calling Frank at (570) 587-3672. Please indicate the type and number of pizzas and/or hoagies desired (as well as the appropriate number and types of condiments for any hoagies).

Thanks in advance for your support.

One Hot Meal Food Pantry – Please bring **cereal/oatmeal – basic** next Sunday for the One Hot Meal food pantry. Thank you for your support.

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](tel:570-575-5231) or via email at artbowl@msn.com. So, if you have a family reunion or a birthday party coming up, why not reserve the grove for the day.

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

***THIS WEEK'S
LITURGIES***

Tuesday, September 8th
9:30 am – Holy Mass

Wednesday, September 9th
9:30 am – Holy Mass

Thursday, September 10th
9:30 am – Healing Mass

Friday, September 11th
9:30 am – *9/11 Memorial Mass, 25th Anniversary*

Saturday, September 12th
9:30 am – Holy Mass

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.

Our Home Defined by Liberty

What it means to protect the country my parents believed in so deeply

By Alan Wakim

from American Essence Sept. - Oct. 2026

In 1966, my parents came to the United States to build a new life. They were from Lebanon, where religious turmoil was a constant part of daily life. Their journey took some time and included other chapters, but America was always the end goal. They arrived with very little, but they carried something more important: hope and gratitude. They truly believed they were entering a nation where your future would be shaped by hard work, not by your pedigree or creed.

I was born the following year, in 1967, a first-generation American. As I grew up, I watched my parents turn hope into reality through steady grit. Despite her limited formal education, my mother had a sharp mind and an indomitable spirit; in time, she built and ran a successful clothing alterations business. My parents worked tirelessly so that my brother and I could enjoy opportunities they had never been given, including a college education and the chance to build secure lives.

The greatest gift my parents gave us wasn't economic mobility, but patriotism. They never forgot their past, and they remained proud of their Lebanese heritage, but they firmly believed America was the better path. They chose this country with remarkable conviction and looked optimistically into the future. There was no hesitation or backward glance. They chose America fully, and that choice shaped everything about our home.

Our household proudly embraced American holidays and traditions.

Then came September 11, 2001, a day of infamy that solidified my love for this country like no other. As horrific images and details were broadcast everywhere, I learned that the terrorist who commandeered United Flight 93 was from Lebanon—the same country my parents left behind. He shared their birthplace, but nothing of their values. That knowledge struck me on a deep personal level and filled me with a terrible resolve: a fierce obligation to protect the nation that had given my family everything against those who wished it harm.

That betrayal did not weaken my allegiance; it forged it into steel. Determined to protect my country, I applied to join the CIA. I was already in my 30's and I believed I could serve more effectively as an intelligence officer than as a soldier. My knowledge of Middle Eastern history,

religion, and culture – along with my fluency in Arabic – were tools I could use in service of America's defense. I wanted to help ensure that a heinous act like 9/11 would never happen again.

Although my life ultimately took a different path, my desire to defend America came from a true patriotic spirit that was also displayed by the ordinary citizens on Flight 93. When those passengers chose to fight back, knowing death would be the likely outcome, they refused to remain passive, charged the enemy, and saved the lives of countless Americans. (Italics added)

That same spirit shapes my admiration for the Founding Fathers—men like George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin—who looked at a world ruled by kings and imagined a government of, by, and for the people. In the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, *they expressed a radical belief—that our rights come from God, not the state, and that the government derives its power from the consent of the governed. (Italics added)* This vision relies on a just society rooted in Judeo-Christian principles—chief among them, liberty, family, sacrifice, and the inherent dignity of every human soul.

That moral foundation, as I see it, helped unlock extraordinary human potential—fueling economic growth, technological innovation, and military strength. When I look across this land from its vast farmlands and Skyscrapers to its natural beauty, I see a nation Blessed by our Creator.

My parents fled a divided region to find a home defined by liberty, and they taught me that being American is not defined by where your bloodline began but by your devotion to this nation's history, legacy, and foundational traditions. I love and celebrate America because it gave my family refuge, gave so many a future, and continues to offer an enduring promise of hope and freedom to the world.





A prayer of peace and lament written for the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

By Carrie Steenwyk

Powerful God, our refuge and our strength, we turn to you for peace and security as we recall the 9/11 attack. We thank you for the bravery and the sacrifice of those who saved lives as firefighters, rescue crews, or people aboard United 93.

Comfort and strengthen the family and friends of those who died. Give healing and patience to the survivors of the attacks who are living with continued physical or psychological pain. May those who survived feel gratitude, not guilt. Assure each person whose life changed forever of your protection and strength. Dispel the nightmares; silence the anxiety. May we learn to depend on the security you offer.

We pray for your peace as we remember the terrorism attacks of 9/11. May our suffering from these attacks awaken in us an awareness of the pain and fear that so many around the world live with each day. May we know how to pray for those who struggle against oppression and injustice. As we hear of terrorist activity around the world, quiet our fears. Heal the wounded of these attacks, and help their families and friends rest in your security.

Guide the choices of our world leaders. Give them wisdom and discernment not only as they work to resolve the lasting effects of the 9/11 attacks but also as they try to alleviate terror of all sorts-from genocide to hunger, from drought to bombings. May their actions bring your peace to all the people of the world.

Gracious God, our world changed with the 9/11 attacks. We have seen how easily buildings can fall and how quickly lives can end. As we remember 9/11, may it remind us that you are our only true security. Give us your strength to face the memory of this attack and the changes it made in our lives. Give us your compassion to help each other and recognize need around the world. Give us your hope as we face an uncertain future. Give us your peace.

In the strong name of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Why Do We Celebrate Labor Day?

By: [History.com Editors](#)

Updated: August 11, 2023 | Original: April 13, 2010

Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history’s most dismal chapters.

In the late 1800s, at the height of the [Industrial Revolution](#) in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, [children as young as 5 or 6](#) toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts’ wages.

People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks. [....]

The idea of a “workingmen’s holiday,” celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers’ rights squarely into the public’s view. On May 11, 1894, [employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company](#) in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives. [....]

In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. On June 28, 1894, President [Grover Cleveland](#) signed it into law. More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified. [....]

By: [History.com Editors](#)

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