St. Stan's News

ST. STANISLAUS BISHOP AND MARTYR CATHEDRAL

Polish National Catholic Church • Scranton, Pennsylvania • November 8, 2026

OCTOBER 28 EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION

A New Bishop for the Church



From left to right: Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Bishop John Mack, Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bishop Charles Zawistowski, and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski.

On October 28, the Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, the Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski was consecrated to the fullness of the apostolic ministry as a bishop. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky served as the principal consecrator, with other bishops assisting. Bishop Charles had been elected at the XXVII General Synod in September. Together with the Western Diocese and the whole Church, we offer him our congratulations and prayers.

The consecration reminds us of the work entrusted to a bishop: safeguarding the faith, preaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments, and caring for God's people. This ministry calls for a man who is both faithful and patient, ever attentive to the needs of clergy and laity alike.

For St. Stanislaus Cathedral, it was a profound honor to host the celebration and share in this momentous occasion in the life of the wider Church. We thank everyone who helped prepare the church, volunteered their time inside and outside the Youth Center, or contributed in any other way to the celebration. We especially thank those who came to worship and witness this sacred day. May Almighty God bless Bishop Charles with the fullness of the Holy Spirit in his ministry, and may all those he serves be blessed through his care.

A NOVEMBER MEDITATION

Remembering with Christian Hope

We begin the month of November with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. These two observances invite us to remember those who have gone before us in faith, united by the same Christian hope. On All Saints' Day, we rejoice in the saints in glory: those who, by God's grace, have finished the race and received the crown of everlasting life in the Kingdom of Heaven. We honor all the saints, both those whom the Church has formally canonized and those whose holiness is known to God alone.

On All Souls' Day, we commemorate and pray for the faithful departed, especially those dear to us. At first glance, this may seem like a sudden movement from glory to grief. Yet the remembrance of our loved ones, though certainly a cause of sorrow, should never be an occasion for hopeless grief. Those who depart this life in Christ, having been baptized, nourished by the sacraments, and faithful to Him, go forth to receive their reward in Him.

We cannot know with certainty the state of every soul, although I myself have deeply held hopes for those whom I have loved. We entrust them to Jesus Christ with fervent hope, confident that He loves and cares for them even more than we do.

Whenever we offer that blessed prayer, "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them," we affirm that, in Christ, our loved ones remain within reach of our love and prayers. Death does not bring our care for them to an end. Through prayer, we continue to express our love and entrust them to the mercy of our Lord.

This prayer is more than a consolation for those who mourn. It is an act of faith in a spiritual reality: our prayers truly benefit the departed, and our communion in Christ reaches beyond the grave.

Let us, then, throughout this month of November and for the rest of our lives, continue to trust in Christ, who died for us and for those we love. May the prayer "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord" remain on our lips and in our hearts as we commend our loved ones to His everlasting care.

Fr. Sean

ALL SOULS DAY

Praying for Our Faithful Departed

On November 2, our Cathedral commemorated All Souls' Day with Holy Mass at noon and our annual blessing of the cemetery at 7:00 p.m. During Mass, we remembered our departed loved ones in the *Wypominki* ceremony. Their names were read aloud before God as we commended them to His mercy, trusting that our prayers at Mass bring them real spiritual benefit through the love and mercy of Christ.

At the cemetery, surrounded by the resting places of generations of parishioners from the nineteenth century to the present, we continued our prayers with singing and blessings. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Fr. Sean Dodd, and Deacons Jon Johnson, Joel Smith, David Dudzinski, and Todd Godwin assisted with the blessings.

We thank the clergy, the St. Stanislaus Cathedral Chorale, and all the families who came to the cemetery to participate in this work of Christian love for the departed. May we continue this loving remembrance in our homes, keeping those who have gone before us in our prayers.



Clergy within the Mausoleum of Bishop Francis Hodur

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

THE CATHEDRAL AND THE WIDER CHURCH

Bringing the Synod Home

Parishioners gathered during Coffee Hour after the 9:30 Mass on October 18 for a report on the XXVII General Synod. Our delegates were Barbara Nowicki, Judy Snyder, Carol Nasser, Carol Mikovsky, and Linda Seliga. The meeting brought the work of the wider Church before the Cathedral family, including the election of bishops and changes in parish financial processes.

The Synod met in Manchester, New Hampshire, September 28–30. Delegates re-elected the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky to an eight-year term as Prime Bishop and elected the Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski as a candidate for bishop. His subsequent consecration here at the Cathedral gave our parish a direct connection to that decision.

The Synod also established a National Technology Commission to assist the Church's digital communication. Reports highlighted renewed youth activity and the Savonarola Theological Seminary and Institute's continuing education offerings. These efforts give parishioners opportunities to learn, participate, and share the faith beyond their own parish.

Beginning in 2027, parishes will remit an annual General Fund Obligation of $200 per member to the National Church. Within that total, $40 replaces the 6% Fund levy, simplifying parish reporting. The broader increase also helps meet clergy hospitalization and pension costs. Other Synodal and constitutional collections continue.

The Synod's resolutions called the faithful to a life nourished by the Eucharist, continuing study of Scripture, and a generous welcome to those seeking God. They also urged support for Hispanic clergy and laity, respect for clergy, and encouragement of vocations.

The parish meeting helped connect those decisions with our own responsibilities. We can take part by remaining informed, supporting the Church's work, and making our parish a place where visitors are received with kindness. We thank our delegates for representing the Cathedral and sharing their report.

CELEBRATING OUR PARISH FAMILY

Honoring Our Centenarians

St. Stanislaus Cathedral has a joyful reason to give thanks: three members of our parish family have reached 100 years of age. We offer our warm congratulations and prayers to Frances Loss, Jane Mikulski, and Helen Lukasiewicz.

A hundredth birthday invites us to reflect on the many blessings God bestows upon us and to honor a life of faithfulness. As we consider the lives of those who have lived, loved, and sacrificed in God's service, let us strive to follow their example. May we look to the Apostles, the saints, and the ordinary Christian heroes in our own lives, especially our loved ones, as examples of how to live a full and faithful Christian life.

Catechism Classes Resume

Catechism classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation began on Saturday, November 7. This is an important time in the lives of our children and grandchildren as they deepen their understanding of our Catholic faith and grow in their love for Jesus Christ. Please keep the children of our parish and Fr. Sean in your prayers, that this time of study and preparation may strengthen their faith and draw them closer to Christ.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Growing in Faith Together



Music and learning in the School of Christian Living, May 2022. Parish archive, St. Stan's News, June 2022.

Parents and grandparents have an important part in helping children come to know Jesus Christ. Bringing them to worship, praying with them at home, and making room for their questions give faith a familiar place in family life.

Our School of Christian Living supports that work. Children learn about Scripture, prayer, the sacraments, and the life of the Church while getting to know others in the parish. Learning together helps them discover that the Cathedral is a place where they belong.

Sunday classes are listed at 10:45 a.m., following the 9:30 Mass. Families who would like to take part are encouraged to contact the parish office for information about the appropriate class and arrangements for their children. Please check the weekly bulletin for any changes to the schedule.

The invitation extends to families returning after time away. A child does not need to know all the prayers or understand every part of the service before beginning. Patient encouragement and regular participation allow that knowledge to grow.

At home, a short prayer before a meal or at bedtime is a good place to begin. Ask children what they heard at church, listen to their questions, and speak naturally about God's care. The example of a parent or grandparent can help a lesson become a lasting habit of faith.

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Growing Together in the Word

Our parish Bible study is studying the Gospel of Luke. The current bulletin lists the gathering on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Parishioners are warmly invited to share in this opportunity to read Scripture, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of the Christian faith.

Luke draws our attention to Christ's compassion and to the people who respond to His call. Reading the Gospel together gives us time to consider the words we hear at worship and their bearing on our daily lives.

Whether you have studied the Bible for many years or are opening it with fresh questions, you are welcome. Bring your Bible and a willingness to listen and learn. Consult the weekly bulletin or parish office for meeting details and any schedule changes.

Serving Our Neighbors

One Hot Meal and the parish food pantry offer practical ways to care for our neighbors. The pantry has recently requested soup and cereal. Please contact the parish office about current needs and how to make a donation.

Regular, modest gifts can help sustain this work. As you shop for your own household, consider whether you can include something for another family. Those interested in helping with parish outreach are also encouraged to ask about opportunities to take part.

We are grateful for the volunteers who prepare, organize, serve, and clean up, as well as for everyone who contributes food or financial support. Much of this work takes place quietly. It is a valuable part of the Cathedral's service to the community.

An Invitation to Give Thanks

As Thanksgiving approaches, remember those who have helped you through the year. A word of thanks to a neighbor, a volunteer, or a family member can recognize a kindness that might otherwise pass unnoticed.

Please also keep in prayer those for whom the holidays are difficult. An invitation to share a meal or a call to someone spending the day alone can offer welcome companionship. May our gratitude to God find expression in the care we show one another.

WORSHIP AND UPCOMING DATES

At the Cathedral

Sunday Holy Mass

8:00 a.m. — Traditional Holy Mass, Cathedral

9:30 a.m. — Contemporary Holy Mass, Cathedral

11:15 a.m. — Our Savior Chapel, Tripp Park

4:00 p.m. — Cathedral Lower Chapel

Weekday liturgies and special notices appear in the weekly bulletin. Please consult it for the latest information.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day. Remember those in need and those who will be spending the holiday alone.

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent. Begin the Church's new year with worship and prayerful preparation for Christmas.

Saturday, December 19, at noon

Wreaths Across America at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Cemetery on Kane Street. Join the parish in remembering our veterans.

Sponsor a Veteran's Wreath

Wreaths are $17 each. Checks payable to Wreaths Across America may be left at the parish office. Online orders at wreathsacrossamerica.org should use group code PA0322P to credit our Youth Group.

Stay in Touch

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Christmas Greetings in God's Field

Parishioners and parish organizations are invited to publish Christmas greetings in *God's Field*. Greetings may contain up to three lines and cost $20. Send your greeting with a check or money order payable to *God's Field* to: *God's Field*, National Church Center, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505. Greetings and payment must be received by December 11, 2026.