

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

December 1, 2019



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

Bishop Bernard is in the Mohawk Valley Seniorate attending to happy and not-so-happy realities among the parishes there.

10:45 am – SOCL Classes

11:00 am - Adult Forum

11:00 am - St. Stanislaus Handbell rehearsal

ANS monthly meeting following the Adult Forum

Lectors:

12/1 – 8:00 – J. Andrzejewski

9:30 – B. Seliga & L. Pfohl

11:15 – L. McConlogue

12/8 – 8:00 – K. Michalina

9:30 – P. Kowalski & M. Stankowski

11:15 – L. McConlogue

MONDAY, December 2nd

6:30 pm – Bible Study, Chancery conference room

TUESDAY, December 3rd

6:30 pm – YMS of R monthly meeting (see announcement)

THURSDAY, December 5th

6:30 pm - Cathedral Chorale rehearsal

FRIDAY, December 6th

6:30 p.m. – Basketball practice (see announcement)

SATURDAY, December 7th

9:30 am – Confirmation class

10:30 am – First Communion class

NEXT SUNDAY, December 8th – Second Sunday of Advent

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

ADVENT RORATE MASSES OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY –
offered **each Wednesday in Advent at 6:30 am** on December 4th, 11th, and
the 18th.

ANS UPDATES – Once again the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society would like to acknowledge & offer heartfelt thanks to our sister, Christine Patrick & her daughter Jordan for November Altar Care. Surely the Holy Spirit was looking down from heaven ...and saying ...well done my Earth Angels.

Today after 9:30 mass we will have our 1st drawing for our 300 Club. Giving THANKS to all who supported this event which will run from December 1st to February 2nd. Good Luck to All!

YMS of R MEETING – The YMS of R will set up the Christmas tree in the Youth Center followed by our monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm.

ADVENT – THE TRUEST CHRISTMAS PREPARATION – I truly hope you are looking forward to this special time of year. Advent is a time to reflect on the abundant blessings God has bestowed on each and every one of us. Although the daylight hours have grown shorter and night seems longer each day, in the midst of darkness, Advent helps us recall how the light shines through with the promise of good things to come. Spiritually, Advent is the dawn. It is not yet 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. So we undertake our Advent waiting and joyful hope and expectation and repentance — just as the early Christians preparing for the day of salvation when the Lord will come.

Advent is offered by the Church as a fruitful time for you to examine the depth and strength of your faith. In the person of Jesus Christ, whose birth you will soon celebrate, you see the God you cannot see made visible; God who does not force, but asks to be invited into your life to share his love with you. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice, I will come in to him.” But the door to your heart can only be opened from the inside, and Christ will not force his way in — he, too, waits with great longing and expectation and patience for all of us to invite him in.

During this holy season of Advent, I commend to you the Wednesday morning Rorate Masses at 6:30, a traditional Advent devotional in honor the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated just before the dawning light of the Advent Wednesdays.

During this holy season of Advent, I commend to you the sounds and colors and ceremonies typical of this first season of the liturgical Church year. The poetry and melodies of Advent are unlike any other during the cycle of Church seasons. You’ll experience many sounds of the Advent season in this year’s service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15th at 6:30 pm in the Cathedral. Don’t miss it!

Enhance your spirituality by presenting yourself to God each Sunday for at least fifteen minutes before the start of each Mass to review the Advent hymns outlined in the order of service; and then open your hymnals to the numbered hymn to read the poem that is set to the melody peculiar to Advent, and reflect carefully on the meaning of the thoughts and teachings and prayers described in that hymn’s poetry.

During this holy season of Advent, I commend to you the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Romans: “You know the time, it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.” Indeed, awake and repent of any waywardness before God.

And most importantly, be assured of my prayers asking God’s blessing for all of you and your families throughout Advent, this first holy season of the new year.

Bishop

Bernard

The Rorate Mass

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.”

Save the Date - A SERVICE OF LESSONS and CAROLS for ADVENT – On Sunday, December 15th at 6:30 PM the Cathedral Chorale will present a Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent. Scripture, hymns, and anthems, will help lead us in spiritual and music preparation as we commemorate the season of Advent. There will be no charge for admission

and a reception with light refreshments will be held in the gathering area beneath the Cathedral following the concert. Tell your friends. Bring them with you.

Save the date - CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING – will be done on **December 22nd following the 9:30 a.m. Mass**. Much help is needed. Much fun is promised. Good fellowship guaranteed. Great satisfaction assured. This year, come to experience it all!

BREAKFAST BUFFET with SANTA – YMS of R Branch #1 hosts their annual Breakfast Buffet with Santa on **Sunday, December 8th after the 9:30 am Holy Mass in the Parish Youth Center**. Tickets are Adults: \$9.00; 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 5th**. **Set up will be Saturday, December 7th** 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 12/13/2019**. 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. The cost for each player is \$40.00 and \$20.00 for each additional child within the same family (living in the same household)**. **Sign-ups and a short drills and skills session will take place on Friday, December 6th, 2019 and Thursday, December 12th, 2019 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 10th, 2020 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 @ 570-575-575-5231.

DISTRICT 1 PNU CHRISTMAS PARTY – District 1 PNU will be holding their annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at the lower

level of the PNCC Building, 1006 Pittston Ave, Scranton, PA at 6:00 P.M. in conjunction with the quarterly meeting. The cost per person will be \$15.00. A buffet dinner will be provided. We will be also be having a door prize raffle, games and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. Please make your reservations by calling 570-344-1513 by December 5, 2019. Payment for the dinner is also requested by that date. All District 1 members and their families are encouraged to attend. Come and join us for an evening of Holiday fun and fellowship. Joan Scheuneman Honorary Director.

2019 Education and Youth Commission Raffle – This PNU raffle benefits our College Stipend Program. The raffle will be held on **December 5th, 2019** at the PNU Home Office on Pittston Avenue. **Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 tickets for \$10.00** for with the following prizes: **First Prize** – \$400 cash; **Second Prize** – Amazon Echo; **Third Prize** – \$100 cash.

Monetary donations are also being accepted for the funding of this supportive program, and can be mailed directly to the Education and Youth Commission of the PNU, c/o Mary Ann Stankowski, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, Pa 18505. Checks are payable to the *Education and Youth Commission*. Tickets are available in the parish hall, at the PNU Home Office, or through Mary Ann Stankowski, 570-341-0986, or eyc@pnu.org.

APARTMENT FOR RENT – The **first-floor apartment** at 1115 Pittston Ave. is available for rent. 2 bedrooms/living room/dining room/kitchen & full bath. Off street parking available. Anyone interested please call Ed Borek at the Parish Office 570-961-9231.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS – With Advent fast approaching it is time to consider donating for Christmas Flowers to adorn our altars. We are requesting **\$25.00** or more in memory of your loved ones. Checks may be made out to the ANS Flower Fund and mailed to 529 E. Locust St. Scranton, 18505 or dropped off at the Parish Office. Please include names of loved ones to be honored. Any questions please contact Connie Tellep at jtellep@nep.net or 570-222-4409.

FOOD PANTRY – Please bring **Spaghetti's** on Sunday, **December 8th** for our One Hot Meal Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of this important project.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday, December 2

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Tuesday, December 3

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Wednesday, December 4

6:30 am – RORATE MASS

Thursday, December 5

8:30 am – Healing Mass

Friday, December 6

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Saturday, December 7

8:30 am – sp. Bernard Kielar by
Steven Krinitsky, Patricia & Joe, III
& Christopher Paul Massari

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – Dec 4 – Mary Karsnak; Dec 5 – Shelby Petrillo, Edward Meleski, Richard Berezinsky; Dec 7 – Stephanie Kaszuba

FRIENDS IN THE HOSPITAL – **November 27th** – *Mt. View: Rosalie Aebli, Paulette Wincovich

FRIENDS RECOVERING AT HOME – Jean Cwynar, Joann Edwards, Ceil Gorgol, Josephine Kwiatkowski, Helen Lukasiewicz, Bob Matylewicz, Chet

Nezelkewicz, Jean Sherman, Jake Stankowski. Please pray for them.