

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 8, 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

MONDAY, December 9th

6:30 pm – Bible Study, Chancery conference room

THURSDAY, December 12th

6:30 pm - Cathedral Chorale rehearsal

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

SATURDAY, December 14th

9:30 am – Confirmation class

10:30 am – First Communion class

NEXT SUNDAY, December 15th – Third Sunday of Advent – Rose Sunday

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

*ANS monthly meeting following the Adult Forum

****6:30 pm** – A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

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

OPLATEK-CHRISTMAS WAFER – is available in the Church Office after Masses on Sunday or you may pick it up during the week by contacting the Church Office at 570-961-9231 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. A donation is asked to help defray the cost of the wafers. Carry on the Polish custom of breaking bread at the Wigilia, Vigil Dinner on Christmas Eve and have a Blessed Holiday Season.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – For the 2nd year, St. Stanislaus UYA is partnering with Wreaths Across America to support their mission to Remember, Honor and Teach about America's veterans. On **Saturday, December 14, 2019, at 12 noon** we will have a wreath-laying ceremony at our cemetery on Kane Street in conjunction with ones occurring at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Through December 14th, we will be accepting donations for specific memorials for loved ones or as general donations for the many wreaths that will be ordered. Please support this effort by donating \$15 to sponsor a wreath of honor. You are also welcomed and encouraged to participate with us on that Saturday to help lay the many wreaths for our veterans.

Checks can be made **payable to St. Stanislaus Cathedral UYA**. You may also send in your donations to the Parish Office, attention: Wreaths Across America.

Please go to wreathscrossamerica.org for more information or to Maria Hughes or any UYA member.

Lectors:

12/8 – 8:00 – K. Michalina
9:30 – P. Kowalski & M. Stankowski
11:15 – L. McConlogue
12/15 – 8:00 – J. Andrzejewski
9:30 – J. Snyder & M. Hughes
11:15 – L. McConlogue

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.

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!

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 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.

UNITED YMS of R WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE – The majority of the parishes of the Polish National Catholic Church are located in areas that are about to be met with harsh winter weather. For this reason, the United YMS of R is collecting winter clothing for those in need! **Donations can include new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, pants, and sweatshirts. Also accepted: new socks, underwear or t-shirts. Items can be dropped off ON THE LAST PEW IN THE CHAPEL until January 20th.** Though a reason to be charitable is never needed, we have decided to reward the Parish who collects the most. The winning Parish will receive a monetary gift sponsored by the United Y.M.S. of R. Board, in hopes of being used to promote a fellowship activity! **For more details, please see the flyers posted in the Parish Hall or contact Nick Gerardi at (570) 313-8046.** Remember, even a small donation can help spread Christ's love this Christmas season. Thank you!

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.

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 upon us 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 **by Sunday, December 15th**. 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 **cereal** on Sunday, **December 15th** for our One Hot Meal Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of this important project.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – **Dec 14** – Raymond & Gloria Makowski

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – **Dec 8** – Joseph Yaron, Carol Grinzi; **Dec 10** – Barbara Nowicki; **Dec 13** – Diane Smicherko

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday, December 9

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Tuesday, December 10

8:30 am – sp. Stella Michalina (11th anniversary) by daughter Kathleen Michalina

Wednesday, December 11

6:30 am – RORATE MASS

Thursday, December 12

8:30 am – Healing Mass

Friday, December 13

8:30 am – Mass of the day

Saturday, December 14

8:30 am – sp. Verna Umerich by Susan & Ed Zarnowski

FRIENDS IN THE HOSPITAL – December 6th – *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.



May this season remind you
of the hope, joy, love and peace
found in Christ.

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.”