HERE WE GO AGAIN!!

You can tell it’s the beginning of the Lenten season, can’t you, because we always hear the account of the three temptations of Jesus every year around this time. We hear how Jesus is tempted to abandon his commitment to his heavenly Father’s plan for him to bring about our eternal salvation. Jesus is tempted with lust of the flesh (hedonism), like hunger of the stomach and surely other hungers of the body. Jesus is tempted to abuse his divine powers for his own advantage (materialism). And finally, Jesus is tempted to take the fast track to worldwide Messiahsip by bypassing the suffering, passion, and death by crucifixion he actually came into this world for (egoism). In a word, Jesus is being tempted to give in to the ways of the world; he’s being tempted to give in to worldliness.

The tempter is ready to give everything to Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, in return for his willingness to sabotage his Father’s divine plan for our eternal salvation. That’s the meaning of Jesus’ forty-day fast in the desert.

And yet this desert experience Jesus has contributed to his being someone “…. who,” in the words of St Paul, “is [able] to empathize with our weaknesses, [....] [some]one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin” (Heb 4:15).

That’s right, just like Jesus, we are constantly tempted to worldliness, tempted to adopt the ways of the world by incorporating them into our minds, into our lives, into our souls.

Now, when I’m talking about worldliness, I don’t mean the God-created physical world we inhabit. That world was created by God, and all of it is good in his sight. The world and all that is in it was created for our enjoyment and pleasure. The world around us actually points us to a good God who loves us and who desires our good. No. When I speak about the ‘world’ or ‘worldliness,’ I’m speaking about a system, a system of sin, a system of evil. I’m using the word ‘worldliness’ for everything that is anti-God, anti-Christ.

‘Worldliness’ describes a system made up of lust for the things of the flesh, coupled with an unbridled focus on oneself as the center of the universe: It IS all about me.

Simply put, worldliness is “everything within a culture that makes sin look normal and righteousness look odd.” That’s a definition put forward by a contemporary Christian writer, David Wells. Again, he stated that worldliness is “everything within a culture that makes sin look normal and righteousness look odd.” And doesn’t the culture we live in today, tempt us mightily to view as normal what we know to be sinful, and to look at God’s ways as odd?

For instance, worldliness tempts the Christian to love others as long as the others look like him, talk like him and vote like him.

Worldliness tempts you to go ahead and follow Jesus but only if it doesn’t cost you something, convincing you that God would not want you to stand up for Jesus if your friendships, relationships and finances are on the line. Basically, worldliness reminds you that following Jesus should not hurt.

Worldliness tempts you never to use the word ‘sacrifice’ even though you love reading everything about the life of Jesus like the way he went to the cross. He was bold. He was courageous. He was inclusive and loving. What a great story! But worldliness convinces you that Jesus would never expect you to live that way.

Worldliness tempts you not to obey God in all
things because nobody, but nobody should tell you how to live. God’s commandments are burdensome, and obedience to God robs you of fun. This is your life, the only life you have, so you’ll live it to the full like the hippies taught in the sixties: If it feels good, do it, no matter what ‘it’ is. You are your own authority; you are your own truth.

So in the face of these distortions of our religion brought about by worldliness, I need to remind you that because of his forty-day desert experience, Jesus understands the magnitude of the temptations our culture places before us, temptations that can derail our journey with our Savior as we work with him to redeem and sanctify this God-created world. We are tempted to resist representing Jesus in a world that, for all its alleged wide-ranging tolerance, cannot actually tolerate God’s holiness within it.

For that reason, this Parish and your connection to it and your participation in it, will serve to counter the worldly temptations assailing us in these times; especially as you bring others here with you.

Only your faith in your Lord and Saviour, and your commitment to Jesus Christ will offset today’s worldly temptations like the ones I’ve described for you above.

It is Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior in his Word, in the Eucharist, in our hearts and minds, and in each of you, who equips us to withstand the allures, the glamor, the attraction of a worldliness that’s quite literally hell-bent on having each of us abandon our God and his kingdom.

HERE WE GO!!

Bishop Bernard

Health Precautions at the Cathedral

At this time, the ‘better-safe-than-sorry’ approach to our common life in our Parish is the approach to take for the immediate future. Therefore, at the passing of the Peace during Mass, we will eliminate handshaking, kissing and hugging as signs of God’s peace being with you. Instead, a wave, a peace sign (‘V’), a smile can be substituted for the other gestures to ensure the health safety of all and to remove from some the stigma of their not desiring to participate in the Peace at this time while others would.

Greeting the clergy with a handshake at the doors after Mass will no longer take place. A smile and the brief greetings offered as usual will be sufficient.

Coughing and sneezing into your elbow and arm instead of uncovered into the air around you will be appreciated by everyone and reduce the risk of infection.

As always, parishioners who are ill on a Sunday morning or exhibiting flu-like symptoms should remain at home from Mass until they are recovered from their illness.

The clergy will continue to wash their hands before Mass as they always do. Additionally, they will use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after distributing communion.

The CDC explains the following: Coronavirus symptoms include a fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms could appear two to 14 days after exposure. The virus spreads through droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. People can also become infected by touching something with the virus on it then touching their mouth, nose or possibly eyes.

Let’s observe these precautions as long as necessary.
ANS Elections

On Sunday, February 2nd, it was a very good day for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Society. This particular Sunday our monthly meeting was held in conjunction with our election of officers.

Returning officers are Kathleen Michalina, President; Dr. Barbara Nowicki, Vice-President; Sue Techmanski, Treasurer; Debbie Godek, Financial Secretary. Eve Hughes is the newly elected secretary. Other important positions for the welfare of the society are as follows: Connie Tellep, Flower Fund; Christine Gerardi, Sunshine; Carol Mikovsky and Marie Gorgol, Auditors; Kathy Michalina, Marie Gorgol and June Sarnowski, Purchasing; Kathy Michalina and June Sarnowski, Readers; and Jennifer Gerardi and Maria Hughes, Publicity. All officers were sworn in by Bishop Bernard Nowicki.

At this time the sodality also welcomed two new members to the sodality. Grace Weaver and Toni Ann Meleski who were sworn in the President Kathleen Michalina.

We offer up our thanks to the Holy Spirit for fulfilling the secretary position and bringing forth two new members to the ANS. Wishing our Earth Angels the blessings and guidance of the Holy Spirit to be with them always.

Marching forward into the New Year of 2020, we are eager to continue down the path of righteousness for the benefit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Polish National Catholic Church; a continuance to gather together in love, peace and respect for one another in the Blessed Sacrament Society.

God’s Blessings to All

Kathleen Michalina, President

began the set-up of the Valentine Dance. This herculean task was completed by Paul and Nick Cimino, Frank Gerardi, Jerry Hughes, Nathan Kalteski, Ed Meleski, Lorne Notari, Ed Nowakowski, Bob Seliga, Jake Stankowski, Mac, Austin, Ethan and Lucas Stankowski.

Thanks to all these men who worked so hard to make the Youth Center into a Valentine Wonderland!!

Candlemas Day – Jesus’ Presentation at the Temple

This solemnity of our Lord was celebrated on Feb. 2, also known as Candlemas. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Jerusalem Temple forty days after Jesus’ birth, in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law (Lv 12:2-8). The feast is celebrated about forty days after Christmas. According to the account of Lk 2:22-39, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon and Anna. Simeon’s prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle Nunc dimittis – the Song of Simeon - (“Lord, let now thy servant depart in peace …. for mine eyes have seen thy salvation ….”), which the Cathedral Chorale rendered this day in a very creative, non-traditional setting.

Celebration of the feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem. It was introduced in Rome in the seventh century, where it included a procession with candles and the singing of the Nunc dimittis. The celebration came to include the lighting and blessing of candles which were carried in procession. This feast was known as “Candlemas.” This day we blessed candles that will be used in the Cathedral throughout the coming year.
Valentine Dance

Saturday, February 8th, the Youth Center became Valentine Central when the YMS of R held their Annual Valentines Dance. Decorated with a red and white canopy and hearts and lights, the stage was set for a great night.

The ANS catering started the night with a delicious buffet of chicken tenders, piggy's, kielbasa, pierogi, salads, jello molds and desserts.

Next came the dancing with music provided by “The Wanabees.” Attendees danced the night away.

The Cathedral Youth Group helped with the serving, coatroom and provided pictures for those who wanted to remember the night.

Thanks to all who helped and attended this annual event and made it a great success. A profit of $5,800 was given to the Cathedral. Thanks again.

Tenebrae Singers Needed

Men singers one and all, please join us for rehearsals for the Good Friday Tenebrae on Wednesday evenings, following Stations of the Cross. We welcome newcomers! Speak to Beth or Jack Ostroski if you are interested and/or have questions. Please also sign the sign-up sheet in the lower auditorium.

Are You “Resisting Happiness?”

LENTEN SESSIONS to TASTE, READ, REFLECT

Do you want to be happy? Do you have the sense that something is missing in our life? Do you feel overwhelmed? Do you procrastinate? Are you stressed over not being able to accomplish what you know is right? Never fulfilling your best intentions for family, friends and church? If so, join your fellow parishioners in a relaxed setting as they explore the book by author Matthew Kelly titled, “Resisting Happiness”, beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing every Wednesday through Lent. All parishioners are invited to participate in this Lenten discipline.

A light supper of homemade soup, salad and dessert will be available, for the nominal cost of $3.00 each week, from 5:15 p.m. with the book reading/reflection to follow, ending in time for the Stations of the Cross service at 7:00 pm. Are you ready to grow spiritually? Are you hungry to learn more? Then, please sign the paper in the lower auditorium on the table or leave a message at the rectory (570-343-6017) to help us plan for you!

The cost of the Kelly reader that we’ll be working from each week is being underwritten by our Women’s Blessed Sacrament Society as their ministry to our parish towards its spiritual growth and Catholic formation especially for our young adults and adults young at heart.

The soup selection on Ash Wednesday, February 26th is Manhattan Clam Chowder and salad with literally farm fresh eggs. Feel free to bring your own ‘brown bag,’ if you choose. The soup selection will change weekly thanks to Sue Tekmanski including Cheddar Cheese and Broccoli, Vegetarian Vegetable, New England Clam Chowder and more.

You can join the sessions at any time if you have missed the first ones.
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the advice of the CDC to limit exposure through large gatherings, we have canceled the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny for this year.

We know how you love this event, so plan on being with us at next year’s event.

Easter Flower Donations

Please consider donating $25.00 for Easter Flowers to adorn our Altars. Donations may be made in memory or in honor of loved ones. Donations should be sent to our Parish Office by April 5th. Any questions please contact Connie Tellep 570-222-4409 or jtelllep@nep.net.

Easter Bread Sale

The St. Stanislaus Cathedral Youth Group will once again be making their “Homemade Bread” for the Easter Holiday on Saturday, March 28th, 2020. Orders can be placed downstairs in the church hall, for Plain or Raisin, at a cost of $11.00 per loaf, or contact Jacob or Mary Stankowski @ 570-341-0986. WE WILL ONLY BE MAKING 120 LOAVES (15 BATCHES). So, please don’t hesitate and sign up ASAP. Once our quota is reached we will produce a waiting list for those of you who are interested in still purchasing some bread. The deadline guide will be based on the signup sheets located downstairs in the parish hall.

Thank you as always for your continued support and dedication towards this organization, we truly appreciate it!! Bread will be available for pickup on Saturday, March 28th from 2:30-4:30pm, or on Sunday, March 29th, 2020 following the 8:00 & 9:30 am Masses.

All proceeds, from this fundraiser benefits the travel/registration expense for the youth attending Convo 2020 this summer. Thank you for your support as always, The Cathedral UYA Families

Meal in the Upper Room

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the advice of the CDC to limit exposure through large gatherings, we have canceled the Meal in the Upper Room for this year.

Because this is such a spiritual Lenten experience, we are hopeful we can schedule the Meal next Lenten season.
The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him.

Lamentations 3:25
A Message from the Education & Youth Commission

Now is the time for all students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree or a post-secondary certificate to start the application process for the PNU stipend (December 1st – April 15th).

The criteria for the stipend application, is as follows:

• a student currently enrolled in a College or University, part-time or full-time. This means the student or applicant must be attending college at the current time, does not pertain to high school college courses taken while still in high school.

• a member of the PNU having a life insurance policy – current paying, single premium, or fully paid-up that is in force and in good standing for at least 5 years.

• One application can be filled out in its entirety and returned no later than April 15th, 2020 to: PNU c/o Education & Youth Commission- Attn: Mary Ann Stankowski, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, Pa 18505.

• This application and information sheet can be found through the PNU website (www.pnu.org) as a downloadable form for the Education & Youth Commission, or in your parish halls.

This is a great opportunity for our families and students to research and review the benefits of being a member within the PNU and see what this commission represents so they can become the future leaders within our church community! Any questions or concerns, please direct to Mary Ann Stankowski, EYC@pnu.org.

Annual Meeting

The annual Parish meeting was held on Sunday, March 1st. The following were elected to the parish committee for the 2020 year: Fred Aebli, chairperson; Ed Borek and Marie Hughes, vice-chairs; June Sarnowski, recording secretary, Peter Arvonio, treasurer; Don Blackledge, Leslie Doyle, Bernie Kalteski, Mark Matylewicz, Carol Nasser, Joe Nasser, Lynn Pfohl, and Linda Vitcavage, directors. Congratulations to the newly elected board and may God bless them and guide them in their work for St. Stanislaus.
Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some of the upcoming events, so mark your calendars to keep them in mind.

During Lent

**Fridays** – 12 noon – Stations of the Cross, chapel, lower Cathedral followed by soup and sandwich in the Library

**Wednesdays** – 7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross with Benediction, Cathedral

**March 1st** – Annual Meeting following 9:30 a.m. Mass

**March 7th** – One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer.

**March 8th** – 123rd Anniversary of the Polish National Catholic Church

**March 27th** – **March 29th** – 20th Mission & Evangelism Workshop in Temperance, MI

**March 28th** - Lenten Retreat, Scranton Seniorate, Holy Mother of Sorrows, Dupont

**March 29th** – Breakfast with the Bunny after 9:30 a.m. Mass

**April 5th** – Palm Sunday Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with Living Passion

**April 7th** – Diocesan Clergy Conference in the Youth Center
Chrismass Mass 4:00 p.m.

**April 9th** – Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist 7:00 p.m.

**April 10th** – 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Holy Hour Litany of the Passion
Mass of the Pre-Sanctified
Opening of the Tomb
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae

**April 11th** – Blessing of Easter Food in the Cathedral 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
Blessing of Food at the Tripp Park Chapel 2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. Vigil of the Risen One

**April 12th** – Easter Sunday
Resurrection Mass 8:00 a.m.
Holy Mass 10:30 a.m.
Holy Mass at Tripp Park Chapel 11:15 A.M

**April 30th** – Consecration of Bishops at St. Stanislaus 1:00 p.m.

**May 2nd** – One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer.

**May 23rd** – 1st Chicken BBQ for the season starting at Noon until sold out
On the corner lot.

**May 25th** – Memorial Day Mass
10:00 a.m. at the Cemetery

**May 29th** – May 31st – 75th YMS of R Bowling Tournament in Lancaster, NY

**June is Clergy Appreciation Month**

**June 6th** – One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer.

**June 18th** – June 20th – YMS of R Spiritual Retreat in Waymart

**June 20th** – 2nd Chicken BBQ for the season starting at Noon until sold out
On the corner lot.

**June 21st** – Father’s Day

**July 4th** – July 4th Mass at Spojnia Farm, Waymart
At 11:00 a.m.
Kurs Encampment begins until Saturday July 11th.
One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer.

**July 6th to July 31st** – Drop off of donations for the Annual Flea Market

**July 12th** – Annual 2nd Sunday Picnic starting with Holy Mass at 11:00 a.m. at the YMS of R Park

**July 20th to July 24th** – UYA Convocation at Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA

March Birthdays

Mar 1 – Robert Serovinski
Mar 3 – Michael Swannick
Mar 4 – Kyle Lennert
Mar 5 – Brandon Reed
Mar 9 – Jordan Patrick
Mar 13 – Angela Ostrowski
Mar 14 – Jean Cwynar
Mar 18 – Jean Pucher
Mar 19 – Gretchen Middleton
Mar 20 – Katie Templeaugh Susan Nitch
Mar 21 – John Kotula
Mar 23 – Deanna McConnell
Mar 27 – Dorothy Partyka
Mar 28 – Jean Gontarski
Mar 31 – Jerome Hughes