

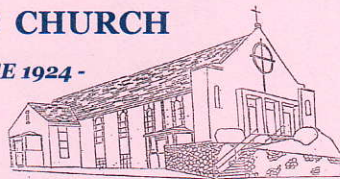
# HOLY SAVIOUR PARISH

## OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

118 Prospect Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770 - SINCE 1924 -

Pastor: Rev. Paul Dudek ☎ (203) 729 4035 – Rectory

Chairperson: Mr. Henry Zapatka ☎ (203) 729 6148



BULLETIN for

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of LENT

March 10, 2024

Holy Mass at 9:00 AM

[www.holysaviourpncc.org](http://www.holysaviourpncc.org)

# INSTITUTION OF THE PNCC

Mass Intention for this Sunday: *for living and deceased members of Polish National Catholic Church.*



### A reading from the Second Book of Chronicles (36:14-17,19-23)

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of

mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

**Psalm (137) Response: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

### A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (2:4-10)

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ – by grace you have been saved-, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Glory to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!**

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
so everyone who believes in him  
might have eternal life.

***We are Catholic community called to serve God  
and others through Eucharist, prayer, education,  
and daily living of the Gospel values.***

***Everyone is always welcome to worship with us  
in our beautiful church. It is a house of prayer for all,  
who with sincere heart desire to praise the only God.***



## A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John (3:14-21)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." – For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into



the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

### General Intercession:

*Response:* Lord of mercy, hear our prayer.

## THIS MONTH BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATE:

**Sandra LeBlanc – March 9**

**James Nelson – March 17**

**Aneta Dudek – March 30**



## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

➔ For us as Catholics **Lenten season** is a special time of preparation through prayer, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial for celebration of the most



important mysteries of our faith, namely passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. - Therefore, **each Friday of**

the Lent we should refrain from eating meat and poultry. This applies to all of us between the ages of 16 and 65. However, individuals with some medical conditions are exempt. Let us also remember about charity deeds for those in need within our community.

➔ Today falls the solemnity of the **INSTITUTION OF OUR CHURCH**, (127 years ago). The Elected officers who will serve in our Parish Board this year will take the oath today. A few new parishioners will be officially welcomed to our parish: **Debbie Albaitis, Nancy Mariano, Nicole Healy, Maureen McGann and John Michel Tropiano**. CONGRATULATIONS!

➔ Stations of the Cross are held each Friday during Len at 6:30 PM. This devotion is combined with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, which concludes with Benediction.

➔ Pastoral/Sacramental Visit. If you are confined at home or have a family member at hospital or nursing home unable to take part in Sunday Mass and Sacraments, please notify the father to set the day and time for pastoral visit. In emergency call directly Fr. Paul's mobile phone @ 475-208-4455.

➔ Parish Board monthly meeting will be held next Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> after Mass.



➔ Please remember in your prayer those who are suffering, sick or confined at home,

hospitals and nursing homes, especially our parishioners and friends: **Cheryl Peters, Sarah Squezzello, Logan Caruso, Debbie and Emil Caruso, Robert and Aiden Klain, Agnes Geruch, Very Rev. Senior Joseph Soltysiak, Lorraine Krusienski** (Very Rev. Joe Krusienski's wife).

➔ Heating of our church. So far, we have raised \$3,270 for this purpose. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

➔ Our delicious pierogi, cheese or potatoes, as well as stuffed cabbage - **gołąbki**, are available from our freezer. Credit card payments are now **ACCEPTED!**

## Readers for this month:

March 3<sup>th</sup> – **Janet Tropeano**

March 10<sup>th</sup> – **John Stronkowski**

March 17<sup>th</sup> – **Henry Zapatka**

March 24<sup>th</sup> – **Ken Krasko**  
(Palm Sunday) & **Donna Warner**

March 31<sup>st</sup> (Easter) – **Dorothy Derouin**





# Solemnity of the Institution of the PNCC – The Scranton Story

The Polish immigrants came to America to seek religious and political freedom as well as a better life for themselves and their families. They arrived in cities and industrial centers where they could find work. The first Polish immigrants to settle in Scranton came around 1871. They were employed as coal miners and common laborers. "The city officials, policemen, clerks, supervisors, teachers and bishops were mainly either Irish or German. They were the elite and core of the city." Isolated by their language and culture, the Poles inhabited the poorest section of Scranton called Slocum Hollow or later, South Side. Feeling oppressed by both their working and living conditions, the Poles found solace in their local Polish parish, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Their parish not only served as a place for worship and a center for religious life, but also as a place for social, cultural, economic and recreational activities. When their pastor, Father Richard Aust, began to demand additional offerings for enlarging the parish cemetery, the people became upset and began to rebel. They demanded that all such collections be handled not by the pastor, but by a committee chosen by a parish assembly.

As discontent and tensions continued to build at the parish, Father Aust brought this situation to the attention of Bishop William O'Hara, the Diocesan Bishop of the Roman Diocese of Scranton.

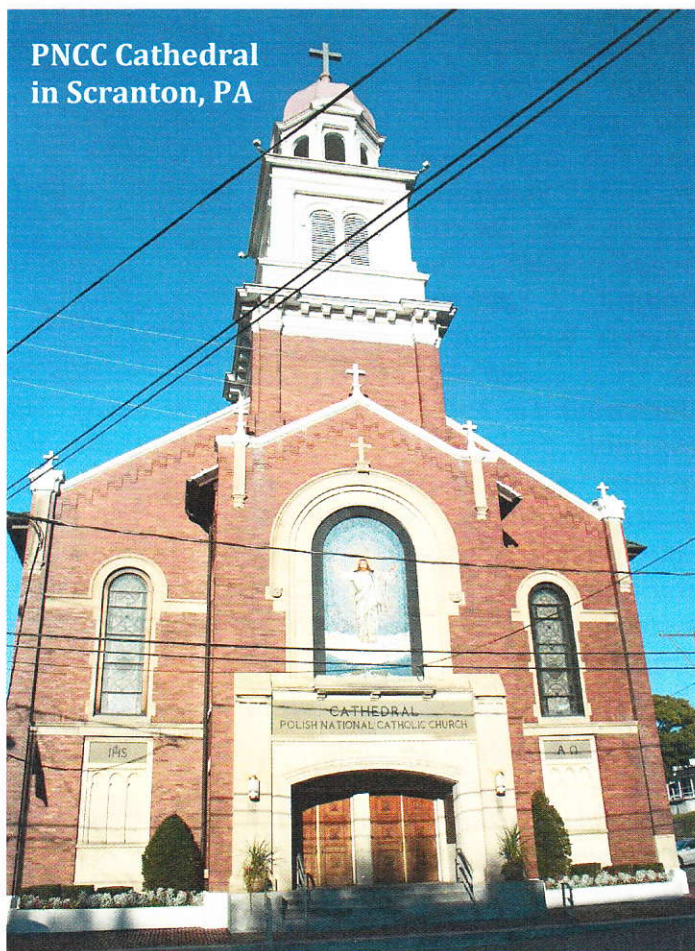


Father Aust, in a sermon delivered on August 23, 1896, "threatened to excommunicate anyone who would resist or criticize his actions." In response to these threats, a group of parishioners formed a temporary committee to approach Bishop O'Hara. They insisted that he compel Father Aust to organize a parish committee that would be elected by a general parish assembly. The bishop refused their demands.

On Sunday, August 30, 1896, about 800 men and women gathered and blocked Father Aust's entrance into the church. The police were called and a riot resulted. Parishioners were beaten with clubs and some were jailed; this day became known as "Bloody Sunday." Over the next few months several priests were assigned to the parish, while a designated group of parishioners continued to try to find a resolution of the problem they had with the local bishop. Feeling hurt and discouraged, the aggrieved parishioners sought the advice of Father Hodur. He listened to their concerns and advised them to either submit to the rulings of their diocesan bishop or to build a new church. The people chose to build a new church.

In early October 1896 three lots were purchased in the 500-block of East Locust Street, a short distance from Sacred Hearts Parish. On December 19, 1896 the new parish was chartered under the name "St. Stanislaus Polish Roman Catholic Church of Scranton, Pennsylvania." The name indicates that this group desired to remain within the Roman Catholic Church. In February of 1897 on a cold winter day a delegation from the new parish requested that Bishop O'Hara consecrate their new church. "The bishop categorically refused to bless the new church, in as much as the committee refused to surrender the deed of St. Stanislaus Parish to the control of the bishop." The bishop further rejected their request for a parish priest to be appointed.

The people again turned to Father Hodur and offered him the pastorate of their new church. This was a decisive moment for Father Hodur. If he



PNCC Cathedral  
in Scranton, PA



accepted the pastorate, he would be disowned and, most likely, ex-communicated by the Roman Church. If he chose to lead this independent Catholic parish, it would mean a life of struggle, trial and suffering.

On the evening of March 14, 1891 Father Hodur arrived in Scranton and met with the congregation. They seriously discussed the actions they were taking. Sympathetic to the plight of these Polish immigrants, he chose to accept the invitation of these people to lead their church. Father Hodur formally accepted the pastorate of St. Stanislaus Parish.

**On Sunday, March 21, 1897 Father Hodur celebrated the first High Mass in the new St. Stanislaus Church,** which was still in the process of construction. The first organizational meeting of the parish also took place on that day. Father Hodur proposed a "Church Constitution" that was unanimously accepted and the first parish committee was elected in accordance to it. Soon after, Father Hodur established and published a weekly newspaper, the "Straz" or "The Guard." The first issue was published on Saturday, April 17, 1897. The purpose of the "Straz" was to be a true "Guard of our divine rights and the herald of a better future to come." Through the "Straz" Father Hodur challenged several Roman Catholic teachings, including papal infallibility and universal jurisdiction. The solemn consecration of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, Church took place on July 4, 1891 and was performed by Father Hodur.

Father Hodur did not intend to break away from the Roman Catholic Church. He was hopeful that the demands of these immigrants would be granted within the framework of the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, in January 1898 he traveled to Rome to present the National Church (Kościół Narodowy) Program, created by the St. Stanislaus parish committee and co-signed by the neighboring churches of Nanticoke, Wilkes-Barre, Plymouth, Duryea and Priceburg (now Dickson City). The program called for:

(1) legal ownership of church property by the local parish;

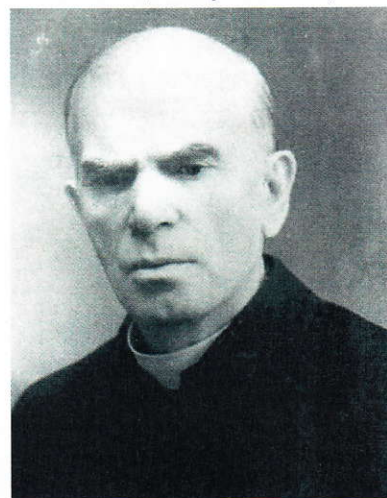
(2) parish governance by parish committees elected by parishioners;

(3) appointment of pastorates of priests approved by the parishioners;

(4) appointment of Polish bishops by priests and parishioners, subject to confirmation by the Pope.

While in Rome, Father Hodur met first with cardinal Leduchowski and then with Father Cormier. He was told that his efforts were fruitless and that he must submit to the authorities of the church or face exclusion. He returned to Scranton, met with his congregation and reported on his trip to Rome. Upon hearing the report of Father Hodur, the congregation unanimously voted to sever their ties with the Roman Church and to work diligently in building the "National Catholic Church."

Father Hodur received an official letter of excommunication, prepared by Bishop Hoban and dated September 29, 1898. During an evening meeting with his parishioners on October 2, 1898 Father Hodur gave a lecture to the people about Hieronim (Jerome) Savonarola, a monk who was burned at the stake in Florence, Italy on May 23, 1498 for trying to reform the Church. Father Hodur then burned the excommunication document and had the ashes thrown into the creek near St. Stanislaus Church. **The formal break with the Roman Catholic Church took place on Sunday,**



**December 16, 1900,** during a parish meeting. "The assembly decided to ask Father Hodur and the priests who supported him, not to look to the Vatican any longer, but to teach the people in the spirit of the Polish Church, and that they would stand loyally at their sides and help **organize the National Church, the Polish Catholic Church of America.**"

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***If you feel that in some ways you have experienced God's blessing in your life, maybe it is important to share with others what you have received from Him. In your generosity, please consider a donation or bequest to our parish, either by monetary donations collected every Sunday, through our website: [www.holysaviourpncc.org](http://www.holysaviourpncc.org) or using your iPhone or smartphone by scanning this QR code and following the prompts. Thank you very much and may God continue His blessing upon you.***

