



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor
Masses: Saturdays 4pm
Sundays 7:30am, 9am & 11am
5245 SE 112th Street
Bellevue, FL 34420
(352) 245-2061
Email: fathermark1@gmail.com
Website: stpaulfl.com



Bishop Francis Hodur

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1866, a son was born to Jan and Maria Hodur in the little village of Żarki, in the powiat of Chrzanów, about 35 miles from Krakow in the Austrian-ruled part of Poland which was sometimes called Galicja. He was given the name Franciszek (Francis). The Hodurs were simple, hardworking, religious people who, with their seven children, eked out a living on their farm and through part-time labor (Jan was also a tailor). After a late start in his primary school education, Franciszek immediately showed scholarly promise and completed his high school education with honors on a scholarship at the prestigious St. Anne's Gymnasium in Krakow, in 1889. After a brief hiatus in theatrical work, he enrolled as a seminary student in Krakow where he was able to take most of his course work at the renowned Jagiellonian University.

As a high school student and seminarian, Franciszek not only excelled in his academic work but also showed much concern for his people, especially the down-trodden and exploited peasants. His extensive readings ranged from the newly-issued social encyclical *Reum Novarum* of Pope Leo XIII to some of the socialist thinkers. An ardent follower of the activist Father Stanislaw Stojalowski, Seminarian Hodur was involved in a student group espousing Stojalowski's program for peasant rights, education, and economic improvement.

In 1892, Franciszek Hodur, then with minor clerical orders, participated in a seminary "strike" for better living conditions. His role in this "insubordination," noted by his authorities, meant a very uncertain future for him. Leaving Europe on the last day of the year, he embarked for the United States with the hope of a new beginning as a pastor to Polish immigrants.



Upon landing in New York, Seminarian Hodur "advertised" himself in a newspaper letter. He came to the attention of Father Benvenuto Gramplewicz of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who brought him to the Scranton Diocese where there was a shortage of Polish-speaking clergy. He was then sent to the Seminary at St. Vincent's Benedictine Archabbey in Latrobe (known as Beatty) in the Pittsburgh area. After several months of additional studies (lectures were given to classes of immigrant students in Latin) he was returned to Scranton. He received his major orders in one week and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Bishop William O'Hara on Saturday, August 19, 1893.

Father Hodur's first assignment was the ethnically Polish Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary Parish on Scranton's South Side. As assistant, he distinguished himself not only as a religiously zealous priest, but he also involved parishioners in such activities as Polish patriotic programs, plays, and a parish library. He even edited a newspaper.

In 1895, Father Hodur was assigned as pastor to Holy Trinity Parish in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.

The organization of Saint Stanislaus parish in Scranton, PA on March 14, 1897 began a new period of activities and hard work for Father Hodur. Although the majority of the Polish people did find jobs because of their sincerity, cleanliness, and conscientious work, for years they were among the first to be fired and exploited. (Continued on page 2)

Confirmation Class YMS of R Men's Group



The Confirmation Class with Father Tom Basta has now concluded. We are waiting on a date from the Bishop when he will be coming to our Parish to confirm the class. An announcement will be made on that date.

The next YMS of R meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at 9:00am at Cal's Restaurant in Belleview. All men from the parish are encouraged to attend. If you are new to the parish, this is a good opportunity for you to meet some of the men of our parish.



St. Paul Choir

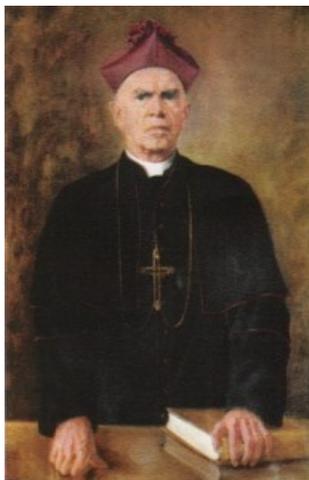
We have a fantastic, spirited choir here at St. Paul's, under the direction of Charley Stoykovich. We are still looking for singers for our Saturday and Sunday Masses. Anyone interested in joining the choir can meet here at the church on Tuesdays at 6:00pm for practice.



Bishop Francis Hodur

Therefore, the Polish National Catholic Church not only preserved and cultivated their spiritual and cultural heritage, but also became an oasis of national pride, social equality, and strength. Bishop Hodur cared for them, loved them and protected them. He was to remain the leader of the church for fifty-six years. He became an instrument in God's hands, teaching the Gospel of love and abolishing the spiritual and moral abuses of the "old" church. Bishop Hodur offered his followers the spiritual food they hungered for; he preserved their culture from a barbaric genocide; he offered them hope and saved them from persecution. It was the suppression of their faith and culture that led them to the organization of the Polish National Catholic Church. By organizing the church, by establishing a Fraternal Society – Spojnia, by founding many societies and organizations, Bishop Hodur carried with enthusiasm the banner of spiritual, cultural, and national freedom.

Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur died on February 16, 1953 in Scranton, PA. He witnessed the Polish National Catholic Church grow from a single congregation of 250 families to 150 parishes in the United States and Canada, and 95 in Poland.



Bishop Hodur believed in his mission as a protector of the abused. And he did his best to effect and change their lives by setting a good example, by preaching and practicing the Word of God, and by teaching others to accept God's Will in everything. Bishop Hodur was, is, and always will be remembered as the organizer and leader of a new religious movement among the Polish people who believed that God created the people for good, happiness and salvation and not for punishment, exploitation and abuse. Under a hail of stones, under a rain of criticism and condemnation, he sowed God's love, equality, and justice, on the fields of the people's hearts.

(History of Bishop Francis Hodur: pncc.org and www.centraldiocesepncc.org/history/bishop-francis-hodur)



Father Mark's bible study class on Thursday mornings is now on a summer break and will return in the fall. The return date will be announce at a later time.



Greeting Card Club

The date for the next Greeting Card Club meeting will be announced by Father Mark and an email with the date will also be sent out to everyone. If you haven't had the chance to find out about our greeting card program, please join us that day for a fun and worthwhile outreach project. The Lenten Season is a perfect time to put your faith into action in this easy and creative way.



Backpack Program

Our mainstay charitable program provides local homeless school children with personal care/hygiene items all year round. Please drop off items anytime on the rectory porch or at church on Sundays in the bins at the back of the church.



Birthdays

- 3rd** Tom Coady
4th Mary Beth Autry
 Megan Finn-Niznik
6th Pauline Yackowski
7th Linda Crawford
9th Rita Chapman
10th Dodo Boogaard
11th Rich Clair
 Peggy Coady
 Alan Kilshaw
12th Claudia Leszewski
16th Sally Kilshaw
 Sue Nordman
17th Betty Hicks
 Steve Robinson
18th Margi Werb
23rd Tony Cipriano

Ladies Adoration Society Polka Magazine

Ladies of the Adoration Society can receive the annual Polka magazine (Four issues) for \$8.00. Checks should be made payable to POLKA National United Women's Societies and sent to:
 LAURA ALFANO
 3348 HARWOOD LANE
 SINKING SPRING, PA 19608



Anniversaries

- 7th** Ron & Linda Thompson
8th Damon & Billie Barkow
14th Joe & Elaine Smith
17th Steve & Marilyn DeWitt
24th Ernest & Anastasia DeSantis
 Gerry & Gail Zippilli
26th Karl & Ruth Sarnowski
 Al & Joyce Walczak
30th Fr. Mark & Valda Niznik
 (12th Wedding Anniversary)

* Members: if your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please inform Debbie Niznik.

Golf League



Our church golf league meets each Tuesday of every month at 8:30am at Spruce Creek Del Webb in Summerfield. Golfers are paired into groups of 4 players in scramble format. If any men or women are interested in joining our fun league, please contact Susan Hilt at 352-307-2129. Bring your friends. All are welcome. Sign up sheets will be posted in the social hall.

Spaghetti Dinners



Come and bring your friends to our weekly all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinners on Fridays from 4:00-7:00pm. Dinners include salad, roll & butter, and your choice of a free beverage - either coffee, iced tea, or lemonade. Adults are just \$6.00 and Children 12yrs and younger are FREE. There are also homemade desserts from our Ladies ANS Society for only \$1.00 each. If you are bringing a large group, please contact Bob Canfield at 352-454-8673. Please let him know how many are in your party and what time you will arrive, and he will reserve your table(s) for you.

Words for Thought

*Our greatness nests solely
on the fact that God in His incomprehensible
goodness has bestowed His love upon us.
God does not love us because we are
so valuable; we are valuable because
God loves us.*

Helmut Thielicke

Finding Peace in the Face of Loss Support Group

Father Mark has approved the establishment of a support group here at St. Paul's to be led by Diane Hollinsworth. This is not a traditional bereavement group as the scope of the program includes any kind of loss. The next meeting will be held in the social hall following the Saturday 10:00am morning Mass for Anointing of the Sick & Intentions for Departed on April 2, 2016.



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, February 21st. Officers, Board of Directors, Auditors and Tribunal positions were voted on. A letter of approval has been received from our Diocesan Bishop. Your Parish Committee for the year 2016 are as follows:

Chairman: Diane Hollinsworth

Vice-Chairman: Terry Stuck

Treasurer: Bob Canfield

Financial Secretary: Debbie Niznik

Recording Secretary: Gary Hollinsworth

Board of Directors: Lydia Kowalski Cane, John Rykaczewski and
Charley Stoykovich

