



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor
Masses: Saturdays 4pm
Sundays 8am & 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)

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Parish meeting will be held on Sunday, March 18th. Officers, Board of Directors, Auditors and Tribunal positions were voted on. A letter has been sent to our Diocesan Bishop Stanley Bilinski, for the approval of these positions. The results will be posted in next month's newsletter.



YMS of R Men's Group

The next YMS of R meeting will be held on Sunday, April 15th at 9:15am inside of the social hall. 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

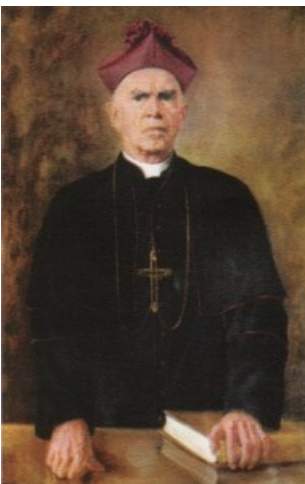
We have a fantastic, spirited choir here at St. Paul's, under the direction of Charley Stoykovich. We are still looking for singers for our Saturday and Sunday Masses. Anyone interested in joining the choir can meet here at the church on Tuesdays at 4:00pm for practice.



Bishop Francis Hodur

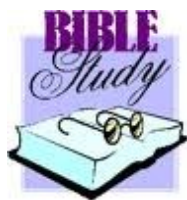
Therefore, the Polish National Catholic Church not only preserved and cultivated their spiritual and cultural heritage, but also became an oasis of national pride, social equality, and strength. Bishop Hodur cared for them, loved them and protected them. He was to remain the leader of the church for 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 meet at 10:00am here at St. Paul's social hall. This ongoing class is for everyone interested in finding out more about their faith. Father Mark brings us many pearls of Scripture each week and whether you are a first time bible reader or an astute learned scriptural connoisseur, there's something special in the Word of God for everyone. You are encouraged to bring a friend.



Birthdays

- 3rd** Tom Coady
Ron Harrelson
- 4th** Mary Beth Autry
Megan Finn-Niznik
- 6th** Pauline Yackowski
- 10th** Dodo Boogaard
- 11th** Peggy Coady
Alan Kilshaw
- 12th** Claudia Leszewski
- 16th** Alice Bauman
Sally Kilshaw
Sue Nordman
- 17th** Betty Hicks
Steve Robinson
- 18th** Margi Werb
- 19th** Jennifer Merrill
- 23rd** Tony Cipriano



Anniversaries

- 7th** Ron & Linda Thompson
- 8th** Damon & Billie Barkow
- 11th** Tom & Carol O'Donnell
- 24th** Gerry & Gail Zippilli
- 26th** Karl & Ruth Sarnowski
Al & Joyce Walczak
- 30th** Fr. Mark & Valda Niznik

* 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.



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.

Name Badges



We have name badges for all the members here at St. Paul Parish. They are magnetic badges, not pins, so they will be easier to wear. We encourage you to wear your name badge each week to church, so everyone will know each other! We also encourage you to wear them at any of our church functions. If you have joined the church in the last month, your name badges are on order.

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

*When we give the
Word of God space to live in our heart,
the Spirit of God will use it to
take root, penetrating the earthiest
recesses of our lives.*

Ken Gire

Sunday Breakfast Buffet



Come join our Sunday morning Breakfast Buffet in our social hall from 9am to 1pm. Enjoy a spectacular all-you-can-eat buffet filled with lots of different breakfast items to select. Pancakes will be made to order at the kitchen window and the buffet includes: French toast, farm fresh scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, corned beef hash, home fries, fresh fruit, bagels & cream cheese, cereals, along with Complimentary coffee, milk and iced tea. All for only \$10! Children 9 & under are only \$5! Now, here's the other really cool part: If you are a customer at our Friday night spaghetti dinner, you will receive a \$2 discount coupon to that Sunday's Breakfast Buffet!



Here at St. Paul Parish we try to keep you up to date on church activities. In addition to our newsletter we also have emails. Our email address is:

deb niz1959@gmail.com

If you would like to receive these emails, please pick up a form in the back of the church and give it to Debbie Niznik.

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