

St. Paul Parish Newsletter

March 2025



Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor
Masses: Sunday 9:00am & 11:00am
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Parish News

The season of Lent begins on March 5th, Ash Wednesday. There will be one Mass with the distribution of ashes at 11:00am. At 6:00pm there will just be the distribution of ashes.



Stations of the Cross will be at 1:00pm on the following Friday dates:

March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
April 4th, 11th



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. (Continued on page 4)



Dine in or Take out from 4 - 7pm each Friday for an amazing New England seafood style meal! Order either the Haddock or Shrimp or Chicken, that comes with sides of coleslaw, potato waves and the veggie of the day! There's also complimentary tea, lemonade and coffee! The donation is \$17 per meal. We now have Ipswich Clams. These are freshly fried when ordered. You will get the complete meal of 1/2 pound of fried Clams, along with the potatoes, coleslaw, vegetable and drink for \$20. If you'd like to plate share, there is a \$10 add on. Try one of our amazing, great portioned, homemade desserts from our Adoration Society for just \$3. Word is getting out about how terrific our Fish Frys are, so please

The Young Men's Society of Resurrection (YMS of R)



The next YMS of R meeting will be Thursday, March 20th at 12:00 noon in the social hall following the bible study class at 11:00am. All gentlemen of the parish are invited and encouraged to join us in fellowship. If you are new to the parish, this is a good opportunity for you to meet some of the men of our parish.

YSM of R members and their guests meet the 2nd Tuesday, March 11th at 5pm for a casual get together at the Mancave. Usually pizza or burgers. Open to all men of the parish. For any questions please see or contact Mark Gilbert at: (410) 419-0321.

keep supporting the efforts of our Christ-centered volunteers! If you'd like to join in the fun, any amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated! Even just one Friday every other month would be great! Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Bob Canfield for details (352) 454-8677

YMS of R MEN'S RETREAT

The Retreat at Silver Springs

6455 E Silver Springs Blvd, Silver Springs, FL



The 2025 Retreat of the Young Men's Society of Resurrection will be held on May 8-9-10 at The Retreat at Silver Springs in Ocala, just 13 miles from St. Paul's. This is a full-service retreat facility run by The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The pictures to the left show the entry to the Retreat Center, the dining hall, one of the conference rooms, and one of the lounge areas. The Retreat also has sleeping quarters, an outdoor worship area, and a fire pit for outdoor relaxation and camaraderie.

There will be four season leaders: Father Mark, Father Frank, Deacon Gail, and Cleric Al.

While this is a YMS of R event, any male member of St. Paul's is not only welcome but encouraged to join us. This will be a special event that will help solidify your faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If interested, please see Deacon Gail.





Father Mark's bible study class meets every Thursday morning at 11:00am 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

- 1st Debbie Emmerson
- 2nd Lucy Dowling
Ray Kubacki
- 3rd Susan Stankiewicz
- 5th Grace DelleFave
- 6th Joanne Q. Doran
- 14th Michael Staschak
- 16th John Clark
Russell Polisoto
- 19th Rosalee Stein
- 20th Joyce Casasanta
- 22nd Sue Wiehn
- 24th Gary Kruck
- 25th Paul Zimakas



Anniversaries

- 3rd Sylvester & Betsy Kubacki
- 9th John & Donna Dreggors
- 14th Will & Sue Nordman
- 16th Philip & Lilo Johnson-Smith
- 28th Tom & Sheila DeFoe
- 29th Ken & Caroline Hoffmann
- 30th David & Jean Bailey

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



Clean Kids Back Pack 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 front of the church.

Daylight Savings



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 9th.



Words for Thought

God's friendship is the unexpected joy we find when we reach His outstretched hand.

Janet L. Weaver Smith

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Bishop Francis Hodur

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.

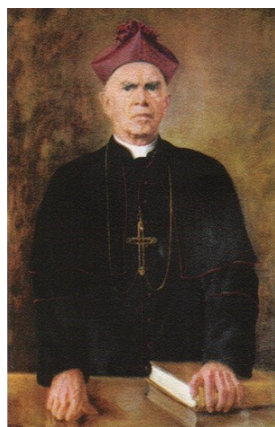
Father Hodur’s first assignment was the ethnically Polish Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary Parish on Scranton’s South Side. As assistant, he distinguished himself not only as a religiously zealous priest, but he also involved parishioners in such activities as Polish patriotic programs, plays, and a parish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

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)