



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

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MAY 11, 2025 – 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

MOTHER'S DAY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

Mass Intention: For the blessings of God for all our dear mothers, both living and deceased.

OPENING HYMN

“TO THEE, WE COME, O LORD OUR GOD”

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,
Before Thine altar, Father
Thou knowest best our yearning hearts;
This supplication answer.
Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,
Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.
Under Thy cross we stand prepared,
To serve Thee with devotion.
Be it with sweat of blood or tears,
Or humble resignation.
For we Thy people are, O Lord,
Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(Ezekiel 34:31. Psalm 79:13)

- V. You, My sheep, you are the sheep of My pasture
and I am your God, says the Lord God. Alleluia.
- R. Then we, Your people and the sheep of Your
pasture, will give thanks to You forever; through
all generations we will declare Your praise.
Alleluia.

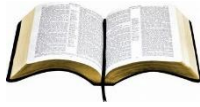
- V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit,
R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be, world without end. Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest,
And peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God, and Father
We worship You; we give You thanks
We praise you for Your glory
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God
Have mercy on us
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
Receive our prayer
For you alone are the Holy One
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of
God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

- C. The Lord be with you.
R. And also with you.
- C. Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of Your
people; strengthen us through Your risen
presence. May we walk with You each day and
follow You in humble trust for You are the Good
Shepherd, You call us by name and lead us. For
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- R. Amen.
- C. Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, You gave
us mothers for the rearing of each new generation
and the fulfillment of Your purposes on earth. You
poured into their hearts the graces of faith, love,
and sacrifice. On this day, dedicated to the honor
of our mothers, we ask that You would bless all
the mothers of our congregation. Empower them
to lovingly fulfill the obligations, You have given
them, as they look to the example of Mary, the
Blessed Mother of our Lord, and to the lives of all
devout and holy women. We ask this through our
Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever. R. Amen



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS (Acts 13:14,43-52)

Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. On the sabbath they entered the synagogue and took their seats. Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God. On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth." The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

C. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God.



GRADUAL (Isaiah 40:11)

C. Like a shepherd He feeds His flock; in His arms
He gathers the lambs. Alleluia.

R. Carrying them in His bosom and leading the ewes
with care. Alleluia.



A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION (Revelation 17:9, 14-17)

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "For this reason, they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

C. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE (1 Peter 5:4)

C. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. When the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will
receive the unfading crown of glory. For He is
our God, and we are the people He shepherds,
the flock He guides.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (John 10:27-30)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said: "My sheep hear My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

C. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

I believe in One God,
the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is seen and unseen.
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from true God,
begotten not made
Of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made
For us and for our salvation.
He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary
AND BECAME MAN.
For our sake, He was crucified
under Pontius Pilate
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
And His kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Lord and Giver of Life
Who proceeds from the Father,
With the Father and the Son
He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in One, Holy, Catholic
and Apostolic Church

I acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



OFFERTORY VERSE

(Jeremiah 3:15)

V. I will appoint over you shepherds after My own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently. Alleluia.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

C. Almighty Father, accept this Holy Oblation and grant a loving, wise and courageous spirit to all who pastor, minister, and teach in Your Name. Through all their words and deeds may they seek Your glory and the increase of Your kingdom. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C. Almighty God, accept these gifts we offer and help us to honor our mothers: that our days may be long in the land which You have given us. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. Inflame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE

(Psalm 119:175-176)

V. Let me live to praise You; may Your edicts give me help. I have wandered like a lost sheep; seek out Your servant, for I do not forget Your commands. Alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, *You* so shepherd Your people that they shall not want. Lead us peacefully to Your green pastures and refresh us beside Your still waters. For us who have shared in this Holy Banquet restore our souls when we go astray and always lead us in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

C. Let us pray. Almighty Father, strengthened by this Holy Communion, give us grateful hearts for the blessings of motherhood. Inspire us to understand and appreciated a mother's spirit of love and self-denial, of intelligent and voluntary service. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



OUR PASCAL CANDLE – THE GOOD SHEPHERD

“I am the Light of the world.” - John 8:12

“My sheep hear My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.” - John 10:27

On Holy Saturday, found in the Liturgy of the PNCC, the first part of this day begins with the blessing of the new light. Traditionally, palms and rose bushes are burnt and at this time the new fire is blessed, incensed and the light from this fire is brought into the church. A “Triciero” or “three candles,” found in early church is brought into the Church. All candles remain unlit as the celebrant enters the church. He proclaims three times, coming ever closer to the sanctuary, where the Pascal candle

rests, intones: “Behold the Light of Christ,” as He then lights each of the three candles.

So, what is the **“Pascal Candle?”**

The term **“Paschal”** comes from the Latin word **“Pascha,”** which came from the Hebrew word **“Pesach,”** which in Hebrew means 'Passover', and relates to the Paschal mystery of salvation. It is sometimes referred to as the "Easter candle."

The “Pascal” candle, is made of pure beeswax, which represents the purity and divinity of Jesus Christ, as the “Light of the World.” The wick, it is said, signifies His humanity, and when lit, it reminds us of not only His two natures: as God and man, but also of His promised presence. During the Easter season, the Pascal candle is first lit and from it, all other candles are lit.

Also, during the Liturgy of Holy Saturday, five grains of incense are blessed, incensed and inserted into the Pascal candle, in the form of a cross, which recalls the five wounds that He bore: His head, hands, feet, and side.

On Holy Saturday, the Pascal Candle is also used during the liturgy to bless Holy water, and is carried in procession of Easter Sunday, During the Easter season it is lit as well as during funerals.

Our Pascal Candle is also known as the “Good Shepherd” candle. If you look closely, you will see a shepherd's staff. We recall the words of Psalm 23, also known as the Shepherd's Psalm: “He leads me by the still waters, He restores my soul.”

Finally found on this candle are the Greek letters, Alpha and Omega, which recalls the words spoken to St. John by our Lord, and found in the Book of Revelations 1:8: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

On this, “Good Shepherd” Sunday, we are reminded of the words of Jesus as found in today's reading from the Gospel of John:

“I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father.”
- John 10:14

We are again reminded, that in the Gospel of John, we hear of the great **“I Am’s”** of Jesus;

- **“I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.”** (John 6:51),
- **“I am the living water.”** (John 4:10)
- **“I am the Light of the World.”** (John 8:12),
- **“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.”**
(John 14:6),”
- **“I am the Resurrection and the Life”**
(John 11:25).

Each of these great **“I Am’s”** of Jesus brings about not His the declaration of His own Divinity.

On this, the 4th Sunday of Easter, Jesus declares: **“I am the Good shepherd.”**

We further hear in the Gospel of John, chapter 10:

“I Am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through Me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The Gatekeeper opens it for Him, and the sheep hear His voice, as the shepherd calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. When He has driven out all His own, He walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow Him.” - John 10: 9, 3, 4

You know, of all our physical senses, the ability to hear is one of the most important. While there are so many beautiful sounds, found in nature, there are also many other sounds, which we hear every day, that are distractions, and these distortions makes one deaf to the quiet sounds of the Master’s inner voice, calling to us.

We learn in our catechetical instruction, that each of us, born in the likeness and image of God, possesses not only His breath of life but also His voice that is found in our “conscience.” In today’s Gospel, we read that our Lord calls out to His sheep by name and upon hearing His voice, they follow Him. It can be said that we are all called each day by this inner voice, which exists deep within each of us, to follow Him. In His “Good News,” we are directed to strive daily to hear His voice. My brothers and sisters, I believe that when we search and read Holy Scripture, and then meditate and reflect on its wisdom, we begin to align

ourselves closer to that voice and begins to hear this voice a little clearer, and a little stronger. In the end, this voice brings each of us closer to the “Shepherd and the Guardian of our souls,” as proclaimed in 1 Peter 2:25.

We also learn from catechetical instruction, that prayer, is an essential tool, which helps center ourselves to hear that voice, apart from all the distractions in our outside world. I do not know how many of us truly understand the meaning of the term, “The Word (the Logia) that was made flesh?”

We learn that shepherds have the uncanny ability of making sounds that can not only lead the entire flock but also individual sheep. The layout of the land in Palestine, where sheep would graze, is very rocky. It is easy for sheep, as they graze, to get lost among the rocks and the outcroppings. But when the shepherd calls out, the sheep hear his own voice through a series of whistles, singing or what we could call today “baby talk.” The sheep know of the uniqueness of their shepherd’s voice and will not hearken or be led by a stranger’s voice.

It can also be said that sheep are not the smartest of animals, just like humans. Humans, like sheep tend to wander and place themselves in dangerous situations and just like sheep can be taken away by others, robbers, and thieves, who would steal them away from the Shepherd. Now the Resurrected Christ, as being the Good Shepherd, calls out to those who have become lost due to their own choices. He calls out to them, gently by name. But unlike sheep, many humans will not always come back to the safety of the flock. And in the end, so many will be devoured in the world. Because of our free will, we all are given a choice, to either listen or ignore that inner voice that calls out to each of us to be tended and led.

And so, my brothers and sisters: The Lord calls out to each of us today, to find the safety and security of being a part of His chosen flock. He is there during our days as our overseer and at nights as a protector. We only need to listen to His voice within for guidance, direction, and inspiration. In the Gospel of John, we read that He knows each of us by name, but the question is do asked: Do we know Him? Do we trust in Him and allow Him to be of our “Good Shepherd ?”

May we all “hearken” unto the voice of the Resurrected Lord this day and find assurance in the words spoken by Saint Peter who wrote in His first letter to Rome: “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away”.



MOTHERS DAY 2025

“It is great to celebrate birthdays, but you know what is the greatest? It is to remember our mother who sacrificed herself to give us birth.”

— **Elmitch Alarcio**

On the second Sunday of May, our nation as well over 81 countries, celebrates Mother’s Day, a day that is set aside to honor the sanctity and blessedness of womanhood, and especially of motherhood, and the “maternal bonds” they have with their children. It is most also a day when we observe the influence that motherhood has and had upon our society; a day where we remember in prayer, our dear mothers, both living and deceased, and all they have done for each of us, within us in our lives.

The modern American holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother in Grafton, West Virginia. Her campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her beloved mother Ann died. Ann was a peace activist who had cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. It can be said that her love for these wounded boys knew no distinction. It wasn't until 1914 that President Woodrow Wilson made Mother’s Day an official holiday.

There have been so many sermons that have been written about the virtues of motherhood, based on the attributes of the Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary, who served as the matriarch of her family and the inspiration to all mothers.

The bond and love of a mother to her child has been described as truly divine, a gift that comes from God.

and it has been said that a woman is a woman, but it takes a special woman to be a mother.

We take the example of Blessed Mary, who first of all, was righteous unto the Lord and chose to be present throughout her son’s life, even witnessing His crucifixion, as she chose to stand beneath the cross of her beloved and dying son. The love and dedication that she bore for her son, on that day, is the standard of what I believe God intended for all mothers to see and be.

I recently attended the 2nd birthday celebration of a beautiful boy, who suffers from serious medical condition, who I met through my dear friend, Halina.

In this gathering, held in an outdoor state MA Park, he was greeted by so many friends, both young and old, and who got so excited, that he was “worn out” by 1:00 pm, but fought to stay awake, even after being placed in his stroller for several more hours.

I spoke with his dad for some time and learned unfortunately that his mom would not be there, having abandoned him shortly after his birth, but even with the absence of his mother, he was filled with a “maternal love” by so many other surrogate mothers on this his day.

In nature, we hear of many examples, where animals will adopt and provide for children, who are not their own and will even nurse these children when the mother is not present.

Paul, in his letter to Titus, speaks of the need for all women to be “righteous and godly, serving as an example to younger women.” Titus, a disciple of Paul was to later have a ministry in Crete, a city that was known for its ungodliness and unruliness.

In Titus 2:4-5, Paul gives this instruction to Titus: “Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”

I personally believe that “motherhood” is a ministry unto the Lord, for it is a ministry of women,

providing teaching and preparing their children to be “righteous” and follow God as Mary did unto Jesus, who fulfilled her ministry to the Lord, in raising Jesus.

Mothers, so many times, sadly serve and have served as a “sole parent” and are called upon to be more than the “chief, cook and bottlwasher” of the family.

Sadly, in so many situations, a mother is the “mortar” of the family unit and without this “anchor” so many times a family will spin out of control and becomes dysfunctional.

While serving in the EMS, in the State of New York, and having experienced the birth of a child, the first thing, I noticed, is where the mother has asked, to hold her newborn.

On equal time: men and fathers, have taken “up the slack of a broken family and becomes the “sole’ responsibility of being a parent to their children.

William Barclay, a 20th century Scottish minister, and Professor of Divinity at the University of Glasgow, wrote: "It is the simple fact that there is no greater task, responsibility and privilege in this world than to make a home."

And so, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ: how can we honor our mothers on this most special day? It may be as simple as sending her a simple Mother’s Day card or flowers or just calling her and thanking her; this is the least we can do to honor all mothers this Mother’s Day, and I believe that all of our dear mothers, while living, will truly appreciate the love and kindness shown to them.

For others, whose mothers have passed, it will be a time to remember our mothers and if possible to go and pay respect at their resting place, and offering a prayer to God, thanking Him for our mothers.

And so, my dear brothers and sisters: for all their love and sacrifice, Mother’s Day is a most special day. My dear mothers, may you continue to reflect on the Blessed Mother Mary in all that you do. Take the example of this most blessed woman and set it as your standard. Always set your heart and mind unto God and reflect God’s love in your marriage, to your children and family, who will see God through you a



OUR PARISH CALENDAR

8:45 am Morning Devotionals

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

THIS WEEK’S MASS SCHEDULE

(May 12th - May 18th)

Mon. 5/12	Private Prayer and devotions Nerus, Achilleus & Domitilla, M. Pancras, Martyr Epiphanius of Salamis, Bp. & Wr.
Tues. 5/13	Mass of Thanksgiving Bernadine of Siena, Confessor Thalelaeus, Martyr Basilla, Virgin & Martyr
Wed. 5/14	Mass for health & healing Pontius of Cimiez, Martyr Boniface of Tarsus, Martyr Erembert, Bishop
Thurs. 5/15	Mass to the Holy Saints of God Peter of Campsacus & Companions, Martyrs Bertha & Rupert, Confessors Dympna & Gerebernus, Martyrs
Friday 5/16	Mass to the Holy Angels of God Brendan the Voyager, Abbot Peregrinus of Auxere, Bp.. & Martyr
Saturday 5/17	Bruno of Wurzburg, Bishop Madem, Confessor Paschal of Baylon, Monk



Saturday, May 17, 2025

The 74th Convention of the Eastern Diocese United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will convene at Holy Name of Jesus Church 15 Thayer Street South Deerfield, MA.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 am by our Diocesan Bishop, Paul Sobiechowski. Following a “continental breakfast,” there will be several interesting presentations.



NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional rite.



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

In our prayers, may we remember all our brothers and sisters, who are sick and ill and ask for God's blessings of health and healing.

Let us pray. O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illness and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:4



Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”

“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.” - Matthew 25:35

Our next grocery “give-a-way” date will be **Saturday, May 24th**, from 10 o'clock till supplies last. We are still in need of the following:

- Cereals and packets of instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and cranberry.
- powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce.
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese.
- Canned tuna in water.
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles.
- Soups- all varieties.
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children's snack packs.



Please note: Through our Parish ministries, we are continuing to collect full sized containers of personal care items as well as full size cleaning items to aid others less fortunate through the various survival centers in our area. Some of those items that are needed:

- Bar soaps and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, and personal products for incontinence (pads & panty liners, baby powder, baby wipes and diapers.
- Liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom and kitchen cleansers, dish sponges/scrubbers, trash bags.



Collecting plastic tops

One of our dear parishioners, Maryanna Foster, who works closely with veterans, has asked for our help in collecting **white or clear plastic bottle tops** that will be donated to aid in the making of prosthetics for veterans in need. A collection container has been set up in the vestibule of our church. Please help donate your plastic tops to this new ministry. May God bless all of our endeavors.

THE EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE PNCC

ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER

On Wednesdays, at 12:00 Noon, during the month of May, members of the Eastern Diocese as well as others, are called to “prayer” and are asked to offer these two devotions prayers:

Let us Pray: Almighty God, speak to our hearts whenever courage fades. Sustain us with an unyielding trust and steadfast faith, so that we may not be afraid to profess and defend our faith in You. May we stand with the same courage and perseverance of Your holy martyrs as we face the challenges placed before us. Renew us with Your unfailing love and fill us with hope in Your eternal purpose. Enlighten us to look beyond the temporary things of this world to You, the Source of all courage. We ask this through Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses this day as we forgive those who trespass against us and led us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



A MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Śp. Bishop Joseph Padewski

May 10th – 74th Anniversary of Martyrdom

Bishop Józef Padewski was born February 18, 1894, in Antoniów, a small farming village near Radom in Poland. He emigrated to the United States in 1913 and moved to Detroit, Michigan. In Detroit he met representatives of the Polish National Catholic Church. In 1916 he entered the PNCC Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 16, 1919, by Prime Bishop Francis Hodur. He celebrated

his first mass at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Plymouth, Pennsylvania.

In 1931 Father Padewski was sent to Poland as part of the PNCC mission of evangelization in Poland and to work on consolidating the structures of the PNCC (PNKK) in Poland. He was appointed assistant to Bishop Leon Grochowski. In January 1933 at a meeting of the Supreme Council of the PNCC in Poland attended by Bishop Hodur, Father Padewski was appointed administrator of the PNCC in Poland. At the Second Synod of the PNCC in Poland in April 1935 Father Padewski was elected Bishop. Father Padewski was elevated to the Episcopacy on August 26, 1936, in Scranton.

On September 1, 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west and the Soviet Union invaded from the east. The losses to Poland and to the Church in Poland during the Nazi German and Soviet occupation were devastating. Before the Second World War the PNCC had 100,000 members, 52 parishes, 12 affiliate churches, and 52 priests in Poland. It all it is estimated that 28% of all PNCC priests in Poland were killed at the hands of the Nazis.

In 1942, Bishop Padewski was arrested by the Nazis and was held at the Montelupich prison in Krakow. He was then transferred to the Tittmoning POW Camp in Germany where he was held for 18 months. Through the intervention of the Swiss Red Cross, he was freed and returned to the United States in March 1944.

Between 1944 and 1946 Bishop Padewski served as pastor of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Church in Albany, New York.

Bishop Padewski returned to Poland on February 20, 1946, to resume his duties as Bishop of the Polish branch of the PNCC. Shortly after his return, the Soviet Union completed its takeover of Poland and asserted Communist control. In this atmosphere of Stalinist terror, Bishop Padewski was arrested by the Communist Secret Police (UB) in Warsaw and was held at Mokotów Prison in Warsaw. In this prison, on 10 May 1951, he was severely mistreated, and tortured to death by officers of the Ministry of Public Security of Poland (MBP) during their interrogations.. The authorities would later falsify his autopsy and claimed that he died of natural causes.