



Catholic in Faith, a People Empowered

December 2025



*“For Unto You is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”*

Luke 2:11

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of All Saints
Cathedral Parish,

Grace and peace to you in this holy season! As
we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I
am grateful for the gift of our Parish family.
Each of you is a living witness to the love of God,
and together you form a community that
reflects the light of Christ in a world that so
often longs for hope.

Christmas is the mystery of Emmanuel – Christ
with us. In the quiet of Bethlehem, in the
humility of a manger, we see the astonishing
truth that God chose to dwell among us, not in
power or grandeur, but in simplicity and love.
This is the heart of our faith: that God comes
close, that He walks with us, and that His love is
stronger than darkness.

As Parish Administrator, I see this mystery alive
at All Saints. I see Christ in the generosity of
those who serve the needy both within and
outside our Parish family. I see it in the
reverence for our liturgies and the quiet prayers
offered for one another. We seek to be a living
Church, and your faith is a gift that strengthens
us all.

This Christmas, I invite you to welcome Christ
anew into your hearts and homes. Let His peace
calm your worries, let His joy lift your spirits,
and let His love inspire you to share kindness
with all you meet. Whether your celebrations are
filled with family gatherings or marked by quiet
reflection, know that Christ is with you.

As we look toward the New Year, let us carry the
spirit of Christmas into every day. Let us be a
Parish that welcomes the stranger, comforts the
sorrowful, rejoices with the joyful, and
proclaims the Gospel with courage. Even the
smallest acts of love – an encouraging word, a
patient heart, a helping hand – become
powerful signs of God’s presence in the world.

May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
be your companions this season and may their
faith, humility, and trust in God inspire us to
walk more closely with Christ. And may the
peace of the newborn Savior rest upon you and
your loved ones, now and always.

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.”
2 Corinthians 9:15

In His Love,

Rev. David Rowinski

Parish Administrator
All Saints Cathedral

Glory to God in the Highest heaven!

Luke 2:14a

I'm sure many have noticed that our Church refrains from reciting the Glory or Gloria during the season of Advent. If any are curious, they may wonder why. Part of the answer is that one of the themes of Advent is preparation for remembering the birth of the Savior. One symbol of preparation is the absence of the Glory.

We see in the evangelist Luke's gospel (chapter 2) that this "Glory" follows an encounter with "the angel of the Lord" who appeared to shepherds. Though shepherds were known to be brave and tough, they were afraid when they saw the angel. The angel responded by saying "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people (Luke 2:10). That good news is that the Savior would be born among them.

Soon after this encounter, a "multitude" of the heavenly host were praising God saying or singing "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors! (Luke 2:14). So another part of the answer is that the Glory is truly a Christmas-themed song, and most fitting that it first appears in the new Church year at Christmas.

Angels singing the Glory is one of the oldest images of the heavenly Kingdom, with God at His throne, the Apostles nearby, and the angels close enough to hear them. On Christmas Day, may we proclaim with Great joy – **Glory to God in the Highest!**

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas Season!

*Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski
Administrator of the Western Diocese*

Polish Christmas Traditions

As the season of Advent begins, we enter into one of the most meaningful times of the Church year. These weeks are a time of waiting, watching, and preparing — not only for the celebration of Christ's birth in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago, but also for His coming into our lives here and now. Advent helps us refocus on what truly matters, reminding us that Christ is Emmanuel — God with us.

At Christmas, we rejoice in the astonishing truth that God became man to save us. Yet in today's culture, it is all too easy for the real meaning of Christmas to get lost in the noise and distractions. That is why this season is also a beautiful time to renew our commitment to stewardship — offering our gifts of time, talent, and treasure in gratitude for all God has given us. When we think about the gifts we exchange at Christmas, it is good to remember that the most important gift we can give is to honor Christ Himself. Supporting the mission of His Church ensures that the Gospel continues to be proclaimed and His work carried out in our community.

During the season of Advent we will sing "Godzinki" to the Blessed Virgin Mary, before Holy Mass at 11:30 AM, as a special reminder of the role of Mary as the Mother of Christ and that will be our spiritual preparation for the Eucharist.

Let us remember about beautiful Polish traditions that we have in our Church:

1. Christmas Vigil (Wigilia)– Special Christmas Eve meal which is meatless with traditional 12 dishes (could be more could be less).
2. Fasting During Christmas Eve Day.
3. Christmas Wafer (Oplatek) - which we share during Wigila (Christmas Vigil) meal.
4. Hay on the Christmas Vigil table

5. One empty dish at our Wigilia table - as a symbol that we are open for others who may join us at our table.

6. Shepherds Mass - (Holy Mass at midnight, or other time on Christmas eve)

7. Christmas Carols - let's sing them together with our family members especially our children throughout Christmas season which ends February 2.

8. Christmas tree and other decorations - let's try to involve our entire family.

9. Christmas gifts

10. Keeping Christmas trees in our homes and churches till February 2 - Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord.

If we approach this season with intentional hearts, Advent and Christmas can become more than a busy rush. They can be a time of grace, joy, and renewal. May our preparations draw us closer to Christ and help us share His light with others.

Please know of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this holy season.

In Christ,

Rev. Mariusz Zochowski

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

9 pm Polish Mass

11 pm English Mass

Christmas Day

10 am English Mass

11:30 am Polish Mass

New Year's Day

10 am English Mass



The Season of Advent and the Twelve Days of Christmas

by Cathy Andersen

Advent is a season of HOPE and expectation. A time to be attentive and alert. A time of preparation and watchfulness. It is a time to nurture PEACE and experience JOY. Advent is a period of waiting in anticipation of the LOVE that is made incarnate with the birth of Jesus. Advent is also the beginning of a new liturgical calendar year in the Church. An Advent Wreath is displayed at the altar and a new candle lit every week to remind us that we are to walk in the light of the Lord at all times. Each week concentrates on a different theme (hope, peace, joy and love) with special Advent prayers.

During this time, we are very busy – that is, we are much busier than usual. We take additional time off from work to spend with family and friends making holiday memories. We prepare our home and yards with decorations. We spend time buying gifts for our loved ones. We send greeting cards to family, friends and business colleagues. We eat an extraordinary amount of Christmas cookies and other holiday treats such as fruitcake. We must also, however, slow down and make time to prepare ourselves spiritually so we are able to receive the gift of Jesus on Christmas. As the well-known phrase goes, “Jesus is the reason for the season”. We can focus on our spiritual life during Advent by praying, attending church services, participating in an Advent Retreat or immersing ourselves in an Advent Bible Study.

Holiday music and Christmas songs are also an important part of the season. Whether it is the beautiful music we grew up with, the new contemporary songs that are heard on the radio way before Thanksgiving, or the exquisite Koledy we sing on Christmas Eve. One song I would like to discuss at this time is the Twelve Days of Christmas. During the dark time in history (approximately 1558 to 1829) when Catholics were persecuted in England for practicing their faith, the words for the Twelve Days of Christmas became a mode by which Catholics could practice their religion. While the lyrics may have changed a bit since then, and the melody added in 1909 by English composer Frederic Austin, nevertheless, the practices of Catholicism are still incorporated in the song.

First Day of Christmas: Partridge in a Pear Tree – Partridges sacrifice their lives for their babies. The partridge represents Jesus who gave up His life for us, and the pear tree symbolizes the Cross.

Second Day of Christmas: Two Turtle Doves – Turtle doves mate for life and are seen as symbols of love, fidelity and connection. The two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments which are deeply connected and meaningful.

Third Day of Christmas: Three French Hens – The three French hens signify the three theological virtues of faith, hope and love OR the three Persons of the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Fourth Day of Christmas: Four Calling Birds – The four calling birds signify the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Fifth Day of Christmas: Five Golden Rings – The five golden rings represent the five books of the Old Testament, also known as the Pentateuch or the Torah. They include Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Sixth Day of Christmas: Six Geese-a-Laying – The six geese-a-laying symbolize the six days of creation, emphasizing God’s power as the creator of the world:

1. God created the heavens and the earth.
2. God created the sky and seas.
3. God created the land and plants.
4. God created the sun, moon and stars.
5. God created fish and birds.
6. God created land animals and man.

Seventh Day of Christmas: Seven Swans-a-Swimming – The seven swans-a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit which are wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety/Godliness and fear of the Lord.

Eighth Day of Christmas: Eight Maids-a-Milking – The eight maids a-milking symbolize the eight Beatitudes preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5:3-10:

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Ninth Day of Christmas: Nine Ladies Dancing – The nine ladies dancing represent the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Tenth Day of Christmas: Ten Lords-a-Leaping – The ten lords-a-leaping signify the Ten Commandments:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Eleventh Day of Christmas: Eleven Pipers Piping – The eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful disciples of Jesus: Simon (whom He named Peter), Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Younger, Simon and Judas (son of James).

Twelfth Day of Christmas: Twelve Drummers Drumming – The twelve drummers drumming represent the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the core beliefs of Christianity:

1. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
5. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.
6. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
7. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
9. the holy catholic Church and the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and life everlasting. Amen.

I hope the next time you hear the song Twelve Days of Christmas, you will remember some of the interesting things noted above. I wish you an incredibly Happy Holiday Season and Blessed Christmas! May God continue to abundantly bless you throughout 2026!

A Christmas Prayer for Grieving Hearts

(from “The Scholars Info” website: <https://thescholarsinfo.com/christmas-prayers-for-grieving-hearts/>)

“Christmas is often pictured as a season of joy, laughter, and festive gatherings. Yet for many, it can bring a heavy weight—a reminder of loss, loneliness, or sorrow. The twinkling lights and cheerful songs may seem out of step with the quiet ache in your heart. If this resonates with you, know that your grief is acknowledged, and your feelings are valid. During this season, turning to prayer can bring solace, comfort, and a gentle reminder that God’s presence is unwavering, even in our darkest hours.”

We share this prayer with all who are grieving this season, especially the family and friends of **+Rudy Smolka** and **+Carole Cummings**, who passed away recently.



Heavenly Father, in this season of celebration, our hearts feel heavy with loss. The absence of loved ones reminds us of the fleeting nature of life. Yet we turn to You, seeking comfort in Your presence. Lord, let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:7). Help us to remember that even in grief, Your love surrounds us, carrying us through days of sorrow and nights of solitude. May the light of Christ illuminate the darkness in our hearts, reminding us that Your promises never fail. We release our pain into Your hands, trusting that You will transform our mourning into hope and our tears into renewed strength. Guide us to find moments of peace and reflection amid the holiday bustle. Amen.

Operation Christmas Child

It's Shoebox Time!

Thank you to all those who brought gifts for the Birthday Party for Jesus. These items will be packed in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. This year we packed 92 boxes and a few of the boxes have already been delivered to Malawi and Zambia Africa. Each box is delivered with the good news of Jesus Christ as expressions of God’s immense love for a child. We will have a box in the vestibule to collect items all year long, so please pick up a list of items so we can continue to send the gospel to all ends of the earth. Thank you and God Bless.



Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse International Relief.

(www.samaritanspurse.org)

All Souls Cemetery Service

November 2, 2025



Our Christmas Tree at Brookfield Zoo



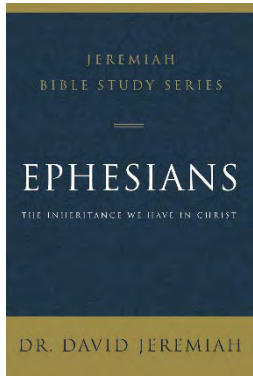
On Sunday, November 9, 2025, SOCL superintendent Margaret Rowinski, Deacon Doug Scott, and parents led a group of All Saints Cathedral SOCL children to the Brookfield Zoo. They were able to decorate a Christmas tree for all to enjoy, view the animals and have a great time in Christian fellowship.



Thanksgiving Dinner



Bible Study



Bible Study with Father David resumes in January with a study of Ephesians. Contact Father David for the study materials and Zoom info.

Our Daily Bread

Did you know that the Our Daily Bread devotional booklets are brought to us by Sandra Dobrovolskis? Sandra subscribes and brings the booklets to share.

You can also read the daily devotions online at <https://www.odbm.org/en/devotionals> or subscribe to have the booklets sent to your home.

Thank you, Sandra!

2025 Contributions

Your 2025 Contribution Statements will be issued within the first few weeks of January. In order for your contributions to appear on your 2025 statement, they must be received in the Parish Office no later than Sunday, December 28th. Contact Financial Secretary Judie Szydlowski (finsec@ascpncc.org or 630-222-0334) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your generous support of All Saints Cathedral Parish!

Bishop Jerry Memorial Scholarship Fund



Please remember we continue to collect donations for the bishop Jerry Memorial Scholarship Fund. Our first award was given in July 2025.

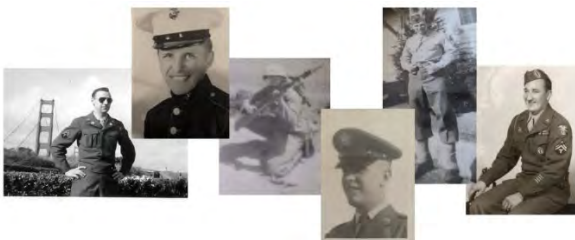
Facilities Available

Did you know that our facilities – such as the Fellowship Hall, classrooms and even the picnic grove – are available to reserve for your event?

The Parish Committee has established guidelines for members and non-members for use of our facilities. The important thing is to book as far in advance as possible.

If you are interested in hosting an event at All Saints, contact Father David, Chairman Gary or Deacon Doug.

Veteran's Memorial Campaign



The official launch of our Veteran's Memorial Campaign has been delayed. Watch for more news on this soon!



Happy Birthday, John!



The **JANUARY** issue of the All Saints Newsletter will be published on January 4th. The deadline for submission is **Wednesday, December 31st**

Submit your pictures and stories to our new email: ascpncc@gmail.com

PARISHIONERS: Cathy Andersen, Bob Gradowski, Mark Kowalsky, Sherry Lapinski, Sylvia Smolka, Teri Heath, Bob Maycan, Diane Hughes, Sonny Collinet, Phyllis Collinet, Donald Pagels, Mary Andersen, Adeline Kozak, Lorraine Truskolaski, Joan Pagels

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Jerry Felski, Nancy Walton, Stenia Dabrowska, Jeff Gap, Jason Malkowski, Sophia Forchas, Audrey Bockenhauer, Cheryl Miceli, Jim Lakowski, Byron Sahovich, Susan Meyer, Barbara Boyle, Karen Skorczewski, Luz Raygosa, Eluid Raygosa, Suzanne Eberle, Margaret "Gosia" Szajowska, Richard Kitching, Ed Davis, Derek Jones, Alivia Lindbeck, Kathy Joseph, Greg Kurzynski, Sherrie Sekyra, Tony Kilroy, Tina Tziolas, Rosetta Bizzotto, Barbara Consentino, June Felski, Jill Ziegler, Rita Bader, Eugenia Czaban

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS:
Stephanie Rowinski

PRAY FOR ALL OUR TROOPS
DEFENDING FREEDOM but especially for: Martin Venegas (USAF), Michael Warren Sobczyk (USAF), Hannah Sobczyk (USAF), Noe Corral-Galvan (USAF), Anna Wietrecki (USA)

Remember to let us know when you or a loved one can be removed from the Prayer List. Thanks!

We Love Our Community!



CLEAN KIDS BACKPACK
PROGRAM

The **Clean Kids Backpack Program** is a new ministry of our Future Directions Committee. It provides toiletry items anonymously through local school districts to homeless children attending school. Items needed include soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, sanitary pads and tampons, combs, hairbrushes, and band aids. This is now an ongoing collection effort so you can give at any time. Please bring items as often as possible to church and place them in the collection bins provided. For those who prefer making a financial donation, a Contribution Fund has been established. Write "Clean Kids" on your donation envelope, or use Online Giving.



The Women's Society will be organizing more food drives to benefit the New Hope Community Food Pantry in the near future. You can always donate directly online at newhopefoodpantry.com.



We have now collected and forwarded **\$5,077** in donations to MorningStar Mission Ministries since 2020! Thank you for your continued generosity.



Remember that **WINGS** does more than help clothe the needy. See their website for ways to give:
www.wingsprogram.com

mark  your **Calendar**

December 6 – Women's Society Advent Tea
December 7 – Election of 2026 Parish Committee, Birthday Party for Jesus
December 13 – Seniorate Advent Retreat
December 14 – Christmas Card Exchange
December 29 – An Evening of Music

January 11 – Parish Christmas Dinner
January 17 – PNA Hockey Night
January 18 – Q4 2025 Financial Audit
February 8 – Bingo for Beads
February 22 – Annual Congregation Meeting
September 28–30, 2026 – PNCC General Synod (Manchester, New Hampshire)

MEETINGS, ETC.

(unless otherwise announced)

Cemetery Trustees

January 13

Future Direction Group

January 18

Parish Committee

January 20

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

TBA

Women's Society

January 25

Saint Cecelia Choir Rehearsal

TBD

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

(see Weekly Bulletin for schedule changes)

Sunday Masses

9 am English / 11:30 am Polish

School of Christian Living Classes

10:15 am October - May

Bible Study with Father David

Resumes in January

CONTACT INFORMATION

Father David Rowinski

Parish Administrator

773-875-1438

dmr@ascpncc.org

Father Senior Charles Zawistowski

Diocesan Administrator

574-485-8520

smparmail@gmail.com

Father Mariusz Zochowski

609-500-9577

mariozoch@gmail.com

EMERGENCIES, SICKNESS or DEATHS

Please report to Father David immediately.

CEMETERY

Visiting Hours: 8 am – 5 pm

Office Hours: By appointment only

Jill Lindenmuth, Cemetery Secretary

773-380-7131 x4 cemetery@ascpncc.org

PARISH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Gary Kurzynski

630-776-0176 chairman@ascpncc.org

CEMETERY CHAIRMAN

Phil Smolka 630-669-9956

FUTURE DIRECTION GROUP

Cathy Andersen

708-471-9304 candersen63@sbcglobal.net

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Judie Szydlowski

630-222-0334 finsec@ascpncc.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Margaret Rowinski 630-885-0167

DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE

Deacon Douglas Scott

312-623-6825

GENERAL INQUIRIES

info@ascpncc.org

PNA Council 306 Family Night Hockey Game

Time for our Annual Fraternal Family Get-together!

PNA Council 306 Family Night



AHL Hockey
Allstate Arena - Rosemont, IL
Chicago Wolves vs Rockford Icehogs



Saturday, January 17, 2026 @ 7 p.m.

**Only 50 Tickets Available . . . Center Ice Section
Order Your Tickets Today!**

Contact Christine Wachna by December 31, 2025
with your reservation and payment:
847-927-9534 or email: pnacouncil306@gmail.com

Game Ticket Pricing 50 Tickets Available

Adult (17 & up)\$30 each

Youth PNA Member (16 & under) ...Free

Youth Non-member (16 & under) ...\$30 each

Parking fee is \$15 per car at the Allstate Arena.
Concessions at the Allstate Arena are cashless!

**Ticket Order
Deadline
December 31, 2025**

PNA Council 306 Family Night

Chicago Wolves Hockey Game

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Ticket Order Form

Contact Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Adult \$30 each Qty. _____ \$ _____

Youth Non-member \$30 each Qty. _____ \$ _____

Youth PNA Member Free Qty. _____ \$ **FREE**

Total Tickets Ordered: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

List Names of Youth PNA Members:

Make checks payable to: **PNA Council 306**

Please send order and payment to: Christine Wachna
14335 Garden Way - Cedar Lake, IN 46303

**** ACCEPTED FORM OF PAYMENT: CHECK OR CASH ****

Payment must be received at time of order.

Order & Payment due no later than December 31, 2025

Contact Christine Wachna for details 847-927-9534 or email pnacouncil306@gmail.com