



All Saints Cathedral Parish

NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH (PNCC)

9201 West Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631 | 773-380-7131

Catholic in Faith, a People Empowered

January 2026



All Saints Cathedral at Christmastime

Our thanks to Jill Lindenmuth for so beautifully decorating our parish during the holiday season.



All Saints Cathedral Parish
Annual Christmas Dinner
&
Basket Raffle

Sunday, January 11th, 2026
FOLLOWING THE 10:00 AM MASS

ADULTS - \$15.00 YOUTH (3-12) - \$5.00
CHILDREN UNDER 3 - FREE

SOCL Students accompanied by a parent will be guests of the Parish

*Donations of Baskets (\$50 value) and Desserts are welcome!
Contact Margaret Rowinski for tickets by January 4th.*

Self-Care: Enabling Oneself to Glorify God and Serve Others Better

Happy New Year! This greeting is an expression of optimism -- of saying goodbye to the old year and embracing new opportunities for growth, joy and success in the new year. It is a contemplative time when one might review the past year and resolve to make the new year "even better". It is often a time of making resolutions for improvement in one way or another. A time of hope, new beginnings, a clean slate and fresh starts.

Before we continue further, however, I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and had a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. While many people really do enjoy the season including all the busyness and preparations, shopping and baking, office parties and festivities, there are many who simply go through the motions and hide behind the smile on their face -- longing for days of old or remembering those loved ones who are no longer with them. During the last few weeks, I made a point of having meaningful discussions with several people -- friends and strangers alike -- and it became apparent early on that many people are just plain tired, overwhelmed, anxious, stressed, sad, depressed, worn out, burned out, mentally and physically exhausted, running on empty, spinning out of control, spiraling downward, thinking their life is sheer chaos or even saying, "I didn't sign up for this!". Yes, they were looking forward to Christmas and spending more time with family and friends. Yes, they were looking forward to going to church and celebrating the birth of Jesus, their Savior. They were, however, also already looking forward to the new year when they could put the Christmas decorations away, and move on, and start over as soon as the calendar turned to January 2026.

These discussions stirred something within me. I tried to encourage those who were open to my input after having been so transparent with me. Our time spent together then led me to want to write about the importance of self-care, and how we can only seize opportunities to glorify God and serve others by first taking care of ourselves in this new year. You see, many people simply do not know, or easily forget, how to slow down, to relax, to reenergize, to renew or to recuperate. Some people believe they are invincible and can run on empty in ten different directions at once. No one can run on empty. No one can run on fumes. Our tanks must be full, and through self-care, we allow our hearts and souls to be filled with positive thoughts and energy and love.

New year's resolutions often include focusing on health, finances, relationships and personal growth or self-improvement. Many times, the resolutions are such that one should simply NOT do this or that. Perhaps the things we should NOT be doing might also be replaced with something that we SHOULD be doing. May I propose the following:

Health -- exercising more and eating healthier. Say NO to just sitting in front of the TV or computer and say YES to any type of movement, perhaps walking with God in nature, communing with Him and His creation. Take deep breaths and practice gratitude during this quiet time. "He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters" (Psalm 23:2). Say NO to overindulgence by eliminating or at least limiting your intake of sugar, caffeine, sodium, alcohol and drugs and say YES to water hydration, fruits, vegetables and lean protein. Afterall, your body is the temple of the Lord. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Finances -- making more money and saving more money. Do not become greedy. Rely on and trust in God for all things. He will provide everything you need. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Relationships – improving connections with your family and friends. Say NO to fruitless relationships and say YES to cultivating vibrant relationships with God, your family and your friends. Say NO to toxic people or negative influences in your life and say YES to people who uplift, support, encourage and love you. Remember, it is not the number of friends that you have that counts. Rather, it is the quality of those relationships that counts. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing" (Thessalonians 5:11).

Personal growth or self-improvement – quitting bad habits and improving mental health. Spend limited time on social media and unlimited time immersing yourself in the Word of God. Say NO to negative thoughts and negative news and say YES to positive thoughts and words and sharing the Good News with others. Say NO to remaining stagnant and say YES to continuous personal growth every day whether by learning a new language, picking up a new hobby, developing a new skill or volunteering at an organization. Also, instead of hitting that snooze button or sleeping in on Sunday mornings, get up and get moving – eagerly anticipate going to Church and receiving the Eucharist. Never take the opportunity to worship for granted and always be engaged while attending Holy Mass. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2). "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, being rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude" (Colossians 2:6-7). "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" (Exodus 20:8).

Remember too that you should always rely on and trust in God. By doing so, you will no longer want or need to be in control and this will greatly reduce your stress level. Below are two of my favorite Scripture passages which I often refer to:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

God wants you to thrive, not just survive. He wants you to be the best version of yourself. He wants you to soar. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Please make time for self-care on your calendar and keep those appointments with yourself. Remember, self-care can take many different forms - through daily prayer and stillness; enjoying a cup of decaf coffee with a close friend; or while outside enjoying nature. Self-care could also be getting a manicure or pedicure while NOT scrolling through your texts or emails. Self-care is participating in Mass, or going on a day retreat, or taking a vacation. Self-care allows you to serve others in a variety of capacities – at home, at a fish fry or other volunteer event, or even just listening to a stranger who may have something on their heart and who needs someone to listen to them.

You see, my dear brothers and sisters, self-care is not selfish. Self-care allows you to take care of yourself so you, in turn, can glorify God through your words and actions and can serve others more fully. Self-care is not a luxury – it is a necessity.

Remembering Our Departed Friend



On December 2, 2025, Rudolph "Rudy" Smolka was laid to rest in the All Saints Columbarium following a long illness. The beloved husband of Cindi, father of Lauren and Matthew, and grandfather to Andrew, Ella, Christopher, Ben, and Jessica, Rudy was a lifelong member of the Polish National Catholic Church, formerly of St. John's and Sts. Cyril and Methodius parishes before joining All Saints Cathedral. He was forever active in Boy Scouts and many civic organizations in his hometown of Park Ridge. His commitment to his family, his church and his activities will be long remembered. May he rest in peace.

Christmas Card Exchange



The Future Direction Committee sponsored this new event this year. Parishioners were asked to bring holiday cards in for both our shut-ins and for friends in the congregation. Additional cards were available for use as well. On December 21, the cards were distributed to those in attendance. Christmas wishes were mailed to those who were absent and to our shut-ins.

Watch for the Christmas Card Exchange again in 2026!

Epiphany Visits

Schedule your Epiphany Visits now!

It is a wonderful tradition in our church to have our residences blessed, commemorating the visit of the three kings to the manger. Father David conducts the visits and maintains the schedule.

Please contact him to schedule your at-home blessing [between January 6th and January 18th](#).

His contact information is 773-875-1438 or dmr@ascpncc.org



Make Sundays Visibly Joyful – Why It Matters

People decide how they feel about a parish within the first few minutes of arriving. Before they hear the homily, before the music begins, before a word is spoken, they read the room. If the atmosphere feels cold, tense, distracted, or joyless, visitors assume the faith itself is heavy and burdensome. But when JOY is visible, people invisibly think: Something living is happening here. Joy does not mean fake cheerfulness. It means peace, warmth, welcome, and life that is rooted in Christ.

1. Teach That Joy is Evangelical: Joy is not decoration – it is proclamation. A joyful congregation silently preaches that God is real, Grace is at work; Hope is alive here. A gloomy church may be orthodox but it will rarely be inviting.
2. Encourage Facial Hospitality: Many people unknowingly look guarded, tired, or closed off at Mass. Gentle formation can help: Make eye contact, Use natural smiles; Acknowledge others with a nod or quiet greeting; Avoid rushing in and out without noticing people. Visitors often decide whether or not they will return based on one face that made them feel seen.
3. Elevate the Energy of Participation: Joy increases when people participate instead of spectate: Singing with intention; Strong, confident responses; Receptive posture during prayer; Active listening during the homily. When people engage outwardly, their hearts often follow inwardly.

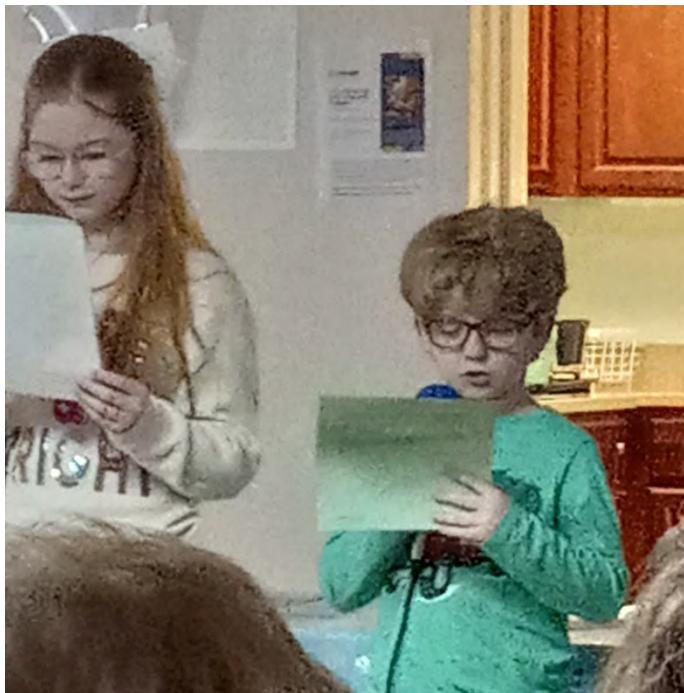
Election Results

On Sunday, December 14, the following people were elected to service as officers of All Saints Cathedral Parish. We thank them for their dedication and service.

Chairman	Gary Kurzynski
Vice Chairman	Philip Smolka
Financial Secretary	Judie Sydlowski
Assistant Financial Secretary	Christine Turner
Treasurer	Janet Schumacher
Recording Secretary	(vacant)
Director of Maintenance	Deacon Doug Scott
Director of Future Direction	Cathy Andersen
Directors at Large	Alan Kadon, Steve Lindenmuth
Directors Emeritus	Theresa Heath, Robert Maycan
Cemetery Trustees	Philip Smolka, Chair Jerry Gap, Mark Kowalsky, Rev. David Rowinski, Nancy Skiersch, Cindi Smolka, Judie Sydlowski
Auditors	Jean Kurzynski, Julia Smolka (<i>one position vacant</i>)
Communication/Website	Deacon Doug Scott
Special Events	Mark Kowalsky
Investment Committee	Gary Kurzynski, Judie Szydlowski, Janet Schumacher, Rev. David Rowinski, Phillip Smolka
Real Estate Oversight	Gary Kurzynski, Deacon Doug Scott
Parish Tribunal	Jean Kurzynski (2025/2026), Sylvia Smolka (2026/2027)
Seniorate Representatives	Cathy Andersen, Gary Kurzynski

Advent Candles/Opłatek/Birthday Party for Jesus

On Sunday, December 7, our School of Christian Living hosted its annual birthday party for Jesus. Margaret Rowinski, superintendent of SOCL, and students presented a program filled with readings and sing-a-long carols. Guests were asked to bring gifts that benefited the Operation Christmas Child program.



Advent Tea

On Saturday, December 6, The Women's Society hosted an Advent Tea in the Fellowship Hall. Janet Schumacher graciously served as head chef and was assisted by Hope Mierzejewski (beverages), Lori Scott (decorations and readings), Mary Jane Scott and Christine Turner and the rest of the ladies of the Women's Society.

A special memorial and remembrance was on display for Cynthia Nytko who hosted last year's tea and passed away in April. Several of Cindy's family and friends were in attendance. In addition to the readings throughout the tea, Janet offered a moving testimonial regarding her journey to membership in All Saints Parish.





Glen & Friends filled our Fellowship Hall with music to celebrate the season on Monday, December 29th.

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold weather to attend!

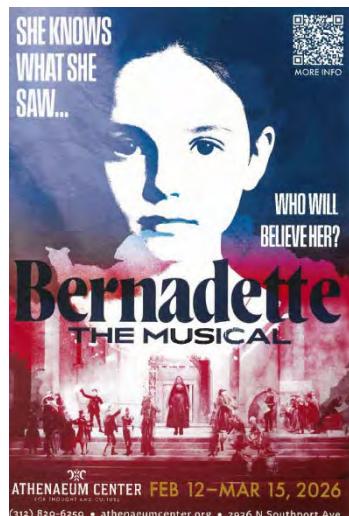




Coming Events

Music Scholarship Sunday is January 25, 2026. This date is designated by the National United Choirs as a unified opportunity to donate to the Music Scholarship program of the Polish National Catholic Church. Our online giving software has a designated fund for this purpose to be used at anytime, or you may give a goodwill offering as you exit mass on January 25. The scholarships are awarded to those members furthering their vocal and instrumental talents to our church. All Saints has had past winners of this scholarship, and looks forward to others applying soon.

February 8th, something new!!! **Bingo for Beads** will celebrate Mardi Gras and the Super Bowl! Activities director, Mark Kowalsky and his wife, Mary Jo, will be serving a delicious lunch along with several games of Bingo! Prizes will include gift cards to various stores. Tickets will be available soon. Watch for more details in the weekly announcements.



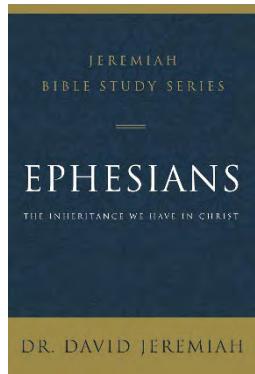
Bernadette the Musical: The Athenaeum Center will be presenting the story of St. Bernadette Soubirous and the apparitions at Lourdes. The themes of faith, hope, and perseverance make it a powerful experience for the Lenten season. If you are interested in attending (perhaps as a group?), please contact Jill Lindenmuth for more information. Performances are scheduled for February 12–March 15 at the Center, 2936 N. Southport in Chicago.

<https://athenaeumcenter.org/events/2026/bernadette-the-musical/>

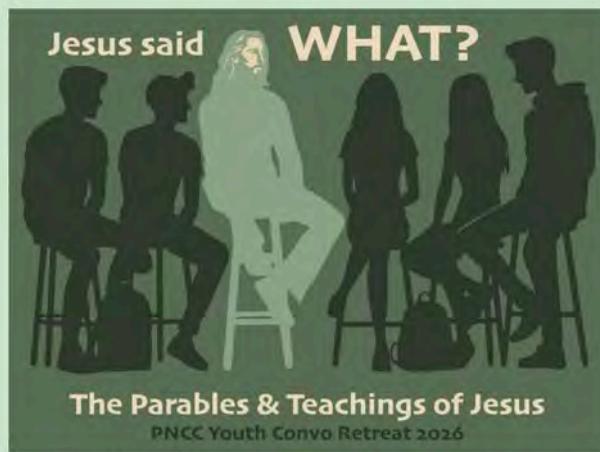


January 11 – Parish Christmas Dinner
January 12 – Budget Committee Meeting
January 14 – Bible Study resumes
January 17 – PNA Hockey Night
January 18 – Sunday School resumes
January 25 – Music Scholarship Sunday
February 8 – Bingo for Beads

February 18 – Ash Wednesday
February 22 – Annual Congregation Meeting
August 3-7 – PNCC Youth Convocation
(Jeffrey, New Hampshire)
August 9 – Summerfest
September 28-30 – PNCC General Synod
(Manchester, New Hampshire)



Bible Study with Father David resumes Wednesday, January 14 with a study of Ephesians. Contact Father David for the study materials and Zoom info.



2025 Contribution Statements

Your 2025 Contribution Statements will be issued within the first few weeks of January. Contact Financial Secretary Judie Szydlowski (finsec@ascpncc.org or 630-222-0334) if you have any questions. Thank you for your support of All Saints Cathedral Parish.

Come Worship, Learn & have Great Fun with your Friends in the Faith!

@ Camp Monadnock in Jaffrey, NH - August 3-7, 2026

For PNCC Youth ages 8 to 17

Early Bird Registration by April 1, 2026 is just \$150

After May 1, 2026 Registration is \$225 per person

No Registrations will be accepted after June 1, 2026

For More Information Follow Us on Facebook @

EASTERN DIOCESE YOUTH

Bishop Jerry Memorial Scholarship Fund

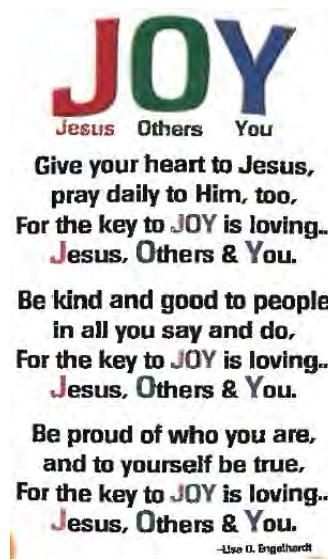


Please remember we continue to collect donations for the Bishop Jerry Memorial Scholarship Fund. There is a dedicated fund in the online giving software. Thank you for your generosity and remembrance. Our first award was given in July 2025 to Mary Jane Scott.



The **FEBRUARY** issue of the All Saints Newsletter will be published on Sunday, February 8th. The deadline for submission is **Wednesday, February 4th**.

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



PARISHIONERS: 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: Don Nystrom, 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!

MEETINGS, ETC.

(unless otherwise announced)

Cemetery Trustees

January 13

(in person and via Zoom)

Future Direction Committee

January 18

(via Zoom only)

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

Wednesdays at 7 pm via Zoom

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 Szydłowski

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