



**If You Were Put On Trial For Being A Christian,
Would There Be Enough Evidence To Convict You?**

Why we cannot be true Christians without knowing God's Word

A message from Father David Rowinski

To be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The very word "Christian" means one who belongs to Christ and seeks to live according to His teachings. If we desire to know Jesus, love Him, and serve Him faithfully, we must know His Word. The Bible is not simply a collection of ancient writings: it is the living Word of God through which the Lord reveals Himself to His people. Without a knowledge of Scripture, our faith becomes weak, our understanding of God becomes limited, and our Christian life lacks a solid foundation.

God Speaks to Us Through the Bible

The Bible is God's message to humanity. In its pages, we hear the voice of the Lord speaking to us with wisdom, instruction, correction, and encouragement. The Bible tells us who God is, how deeply He loves us, and what He asks of us. Saint Paul the Apostle wrote: *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Scripture teaches us what is right, warns us when we go off in the wrong direction, and guides us back to the path of holiness. If we neglect God's Word, we ignore one of the primary ways He communicates with us.

Imagine trying to maintain a close friendship while never listening to what the other person says. That relationship would quickly become shallow and distant. The same is true with God. Prayer allows us to speak to Him, but Scripture allows Him to speak to us.

Jesus is the Word Made Flesh

The central message of Christianity is that Jesus Christ is the eternal Word of God made flesh. In the Gospel of John we read, "In the beginning was the Word...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1 :1, 14). To know Jesus, we must know the Gospels and the rest of Scripture that points to Him. Through the Bible we learn how He taught, how He loved, how He forgave, and how he gave His life for our salvation. Without familiarity with God's Word, our image of Christ can become shaped by opinion or culture rather than by His own revealed truth.

God's Word Strengthens Our Faith

Faith is not based merely on feelings. It grows through hearing and receiving God's truth. Saint Paul says, *"Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ"* (Romans 10:17). When we regularly read and reflect on Scripture, our trust in God deepens. We are reminded of His promises, His faithfulness, and His power. During times of suffering, doubt, or temptation, the Word of God gives us hope and direction. Many believers can testify that a particular verse brought comfort in grief, guidance during confusion, or courage in times of fear. God's Word nourishes the soul just as food nourishes the body.

Scripture Protects Us from Error

Without knowledge of the Bible, Christians are vulnerable to false teachings and moral confusion. We may be influenced by opinions that sound appealing but contradict the truth of Christ. Jesus Himself resisted temptation in the wilderness by quoting Scripture (Matthew 4:1-11). If the Son of God used the Word as a weapon against evil, how much more do we need it. The Bible provides a firm foundation in a changing world. It helps us distinguish truth from error and good from evil. Christians who know God's Word are better prepared to remain faithful and defend their beliefs with humility and confidence.

God's Word Calls Us to Action

Knowing Scripture is not merely an intellectual exercise. The purpose of the Bible is transformation. Saint James writes: *"be doers of the word and not hearers only"* (James 1:22). The Word of God challenges us to forgive those who hurt us, serve the poor, seek justice, and live with holiness and love. As we meditate on Scripture, our hearts are gradually shaped into the likeness of Christ. A true Christian doesn't just admire the Bible; he or she strives to live according to it.

The Bible Guides Our Daily Decisions

Every day we face choices about relationships, work, finances, morality, and priorities. The Bible offers timeless wisdom for each of these areas. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light to my path." In a world often marked by uncertainty, God's Word illuminates the right way forward. Those who study Scripture are less likely to be guided solely by emotions or popular opinion. Instead, they learn to make decisions rooted in God's truth.

Scripture Nourishes the Whole Church

The Polish National Catholic Church has always treasured the Word of God; to the extent that our organizer, Bishop Francis Hodur, acknowledged it as a Sacrament. In every Mass, Christians listen to readings from Scripture because God continues to talk to His people. The Bible unites believers across generations and cultures in one shared faith. Saint Jerome famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." This statement captures an essential truth: If we do not know God's Word, we cannot fully know the One we claim to follow."

A true Christian seeks a living relationship with Jesus Christ. That relationship cannot grow without listening to God's voice in Scripture. The Bible reveals God's love, strengthens faith, protects from error, and teaches us how to live. No one becomes a mature disciple by attending church alone or by relying only on memories of what others have taught. Personal engagement with the Word of God is essential. Through prayerful reading of Scripture, we encounter Christ and allow Him to shape our minds and hearts.

If we desire to be authentic Christians, we must open the Bible regularly and read it with faith. There, in the inspired Word of God, we meet the Lord who says to each of us, "Follow me."



Bible Study with Father David

**Join Father David for Bible Study via Zoom
every Wednesday evening at 7 pm.**

Easter Dinner and Basket Raffle - Sunday, April 12



Pentecost Sunday



Veterans Memorial Campaign Launch



Our Veterans Memorial Campaign runs through Memorial Day 2027. Watch our website for updates on the funds collected and Veterans Photos which start appearing soon!

GIVING LEVELS				
Choose Your Level of Support				
ALL DONORS				
All Amounts				
- Name on donor honor roll - Inclusion of two photos of your beloved Veterans in our Virtual Memorial - Invitation to the Dedication Ceremony				
FRIEND	ADVOCATE	PATRIOT	LEGACY	BENEFACTOR
\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000+
Additional two photos (total four) in our Virtual Memorial	Name included in the Dedication Program	Inclusion of up to 20 photos of Veterans in our Virtual Memorial	- Unlimited number of photos in our Virtual Memorial - One Memorial Brick (placed in the Veterans Walkway or elsewhere) - A great option for a family, parish or organization to donate together!	- Option to Sponsor an element of the memorial (such as a bench, landscaping feature, flag display, etc.) - The exact sponsored elements and their donation levels will be announced during the Design Phase
				

FREEDOM: INDEPENDENCE OR DEPENDENCE

Cathy Andersen, Chairperson Future Direction Committee

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA! On July 4, 2026, the United States of America celebrates its 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of American independence. There will be numerous ways in which our country, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our families will celebrate and remember. Of course, we should be displaying our American flag proudly, which not only symbolizes freedom but sacrifice as well. We might also decorate our homes and yards, and even wear red, white and blue attire. We may attend parties, picnics, BBQs, parades, and fireworks displays. We may participate in a church event in which we thank God for the abundant blessings He has and will continue to bestow on America as well as ourselves. We will also sing patriotic hymns or songs at the events we attend. Our attention will be fully drawn to **FREEDOM**.

What is freedom? Freedom can be the power or right to speak, act and make choices without external hindrance, coercion or restraint. It is the state of being independent from arbitrary control. It is the ability to govern oneself, make personal life choices, and act according to one's own will without infringing upon the rights of others.

As Christians and Catholics, we must also be aware of a different kind of freedom, that of **SPIRITUAL FREEDOM**. God's definition of freedom is not the ability to do whatever one wants, when one wants and without consequences. Spiritual freedom is freedom from the power and penalty of sin so one may live righteously, loving and serving God and others, and glorifying God by fulfilling the unique purpose He has created for you. ("You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." Galatians 5:13)

God gave you a free will so you do have the freedom to choose how you act, speak and live your life. One also has the responsibility, however, to act, speak and live according to God's will and His commandments. When one falls short and sins, a thorough confession and true repentance will reunite you with God. ("Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:1-2) Once you return to God, true freedom follows. It comes in giving God control over all aspects of one's life, and in relying on His strength, not your own. It is the desire and ability to do what is good, right and holy. Spiritual freedom does not come to us because we are powerful or disciplined. It comes to us because we are profoundly weak and need the grace of God to obtain it. It comes to us because His mercy and love are infinite, limitless and unfathomable.

Prayer is our Declaration of Dependence on God. We must pray daily. We must pray diligently, boldly and fervently. We must pray for our country and its leaders. We must pray for our beloved Polish National Catholic Church and its leaders. We must pray for all clergy and for sacred vocations. We must pray for each diocese and every parish within the Church. We must pray for the sick, the homebound and the bereaved. We must pray for the deceased. We must pray for those who have fallen away from the Church. We must pray for our youth. We must pray for each other.

To be truly free, one must move from a mediocre spiritual life to a vibrant spiritual life; and from a lukewarm relationship with God to a consuming thirst for God and a burning desire for holiness. One must strive to have an intimate relationship with God – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. ("Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17)

One must live life allowing God to take the ordinary things and events in one’s life and make them extraordinary. One must trust in God, trust in His ways, trust in His goodness, and cooperate with Him. Surrendering one’s life to God does not restrict our freedom or take away our fun. Rather, it gives one’s life back by allowing one to see God in all things, to experience beauty like never before, to see Jesus in others, to no longer feel anxious. Freedom allows hatred to be replaced with love, doubt with faith, despair with hope, darkness with light, sadness with joy. One will truly feel alive again -- to breathe again, to pray again, to be patient again, and to feel lighter as the weights of the secular world are lifted from us.

As we celebrate our country’s birthday and the freedom and independence that we have as Americans, let us thank God for the freedom and blessings we have in living a holy and sacrificial life fully dependent on Him.

God Bless America! God Bless All of Us!



Church Calendar

Did you know you can find all of our services and events on our Website?
Just click on the “Go To Calendar” button on our Home Page!

Click below to view our full Calendar.

[Go To Calendar](#)



God Bless You Father David, Father Mariusz and Deacon Doug!

Clergy Pension Fund



Thanks to your very generous support, the Congregation of All Saints Cathedral Parish will be forwarding **more than \$1,200** to the Clergy Pension Fund collected in the first six months of 2026.

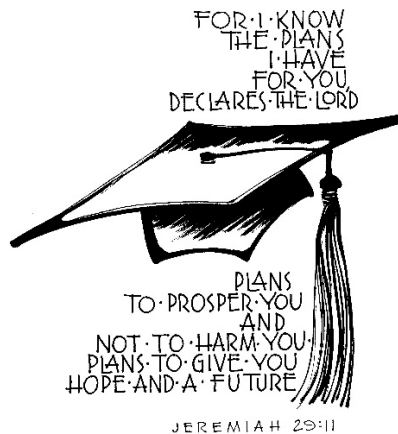
You can give to the Clergy Pension Fund at any time by using the Clergy Pension Fund envelopes in the vestibule or online at Our Sunday Visitor.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!



James Lindenmuth graduated on May 23rd from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He received his Undergraduate Degree in Exercise and Sports Science, K-12 Education, and a minor in Health and Human Performance. He will student teach this fall at

Cumberland Elementary School and Maine West High School, both in Des Plaines. He currently works at the Golf Center in Des Plaines and is also in his third year as a camp counselor at the Oasis Camp in Winnetka. After student teaching James will receive his teaching license in both Wisconsin and Illinois.



Ella Smolka, daughter of Matt and Julia, graduated from Regina Dominican High School, where she was the Captain of the Lacrosse Team. She will attend Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin majoring in Speech Language Pathology, with a minor in Psychology.



Kara Lindenmuth graduated May 17th from Maine West High School in Des Plaines. She was inducted into the National Honor Society in 2024, was Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, on the Executive Board of

Student Voice and in the Phi Sigma Pi society. She was a 4-year varsity softball player, All-Conference for 3 years and captain for 2 years, was on varsity golf her senior year as well as captain. She was awarded the Senior Physical Education Leader Excellence Award. Kara won multiple awards at the Illinois Journalism Education Associate 2026 State Writing, Art, Photograph and Design Competition. She will be attending the University of Tennessee - Knoxville in the Fall studying Communications with a concentration in media and sports.

Happy Birthdays!



Prayer for Our Synod

Please pray for the PNCC and the XXVII General Synod to be held September 28-30 in Manchester, New Hampshire:



Almighty and Eternal God, You have called us to serve You through the Polish National Catholic Church. Hear our prayer for our Prime Bishop Anthony, our Bishops John, Paul, Bernard and Robert, the priests, the deacons, the lay leaders and the faithful of our Holy Church. We join in prayer that the upcoming XXVII General Synod will be a spiritual success for the Church and that through it, its work and its plans, the entire Polish National Catholic Church may continue to better serve our Lord Jesus Christ and build up His Kingdom on earth. May Your gifts and blessings strengthen our resolve to serve You and by our example bring others into the Mystical Body of Christ. May all that we do be for the glory of Your Name and the salvation of Your people. By our faithful witness and service may we eventually be received into Your eternal Kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Outreach Tip for July

from the Western Diocese Newsletter:

Don't Scatter Energy

Pick ONE thing and become known for it:

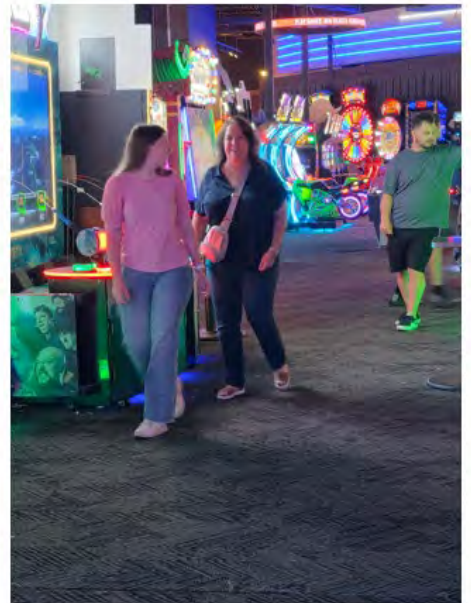
- Weekly meal
- Monthly community breakfast
- Free coffee + conversation hour
- Simple service project (yard help, food bags, etc.)

Then commit:

- Same day
- Same time
- Every single week or month

Consistency builds familiarity. Familiarity lowers resistance.

SOCL End of Year Outing to Dave & Busters



Clean Kids

The Future Direction Committee would like to thank everyone for their generosity in giving to the **Clean Kids Backpack Project**.



Your donation of hygiene items were recently picked up by the **North Cook Intermediate Service Center**. The North Cook ISC is the liaison

between the Illinois State Board of Education and the local schools in our region. Their work encompasses Comprehensive Professional Learning, Operational & Compliance Resources and Student Services.

The monetary contributions over the life of our program totaled **\$1,050**. This amount was forwarded to our own Father Mark Niznik in Davie, Florida for his Clean Kids program.



CLEAN KIDS BACKPACK
PROGRAM

Christmas in July



Bishop Jerry Memorial Scholarship Fund



Tickets are now on sale for a 50/50 Raffle to benefit the Bishop Jerry Memorial Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$10 each. The winner will be drawn on Sunday, July 12th at All Saints Cathedral Parish. Contact Leslie Rafalko or Judie Szydlowski for tickets.



Please remember we continue to collect donations for this scholarship fund as well. There is a dedicated fund in our online giving software.

mark your Calendar

July 4 – Independence Day
July 12 – Remembrance Day for +Bishop Jerry
July 18 – Christmas in July at Saint Hedwig's
August 3-7 – PNCC Youth Convocation
(Jeffrey, New Hampshire)
August 9 – Summerfest
September 28-30 – PNCC General Synod
(Manchester, New Hampshire)



The **AUGUST** issue of the All Saints Newsletter will be a special Summerfest edition published on Sunday, August 9. The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday, August 6.**

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

Photos sent by text or received without captions may not be used.

Church Information

MEETINGS, ETC.

(unless otherwise announced)

Cemetery Trustees

July 14 (in person and via Zoom)

Future Direction Committee

July 12 (in person)

Parish Committee

July 21 (via Zoom)

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

September 13 (in person)

Women's Society

July 26 (in person)

Saint Cecelia Choir Rehearsal

See you in the fall!

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

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Father Mariusz Zochowski

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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

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CEMETERY CHAIRMAN

Phil Smolka 630-669-9956

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Margaret Rowinski 630-885-0167

DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE

Deacon Douglas Scott

312-623-6825

GENERAL INQUIRIES

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