



All Saints Cathedral Parish

NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH (PNCC)

9201 West Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631 | [773-380-7131](tel:773-380-7131)

Catholic in Faith, a People Empowered

March 2026



The Importance and Meaning of Easter

Easter stands at the very heart of the Christian faith. More than a seasonal celebration marked by lilies, sunrise services, and joyful hymns, Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is the cornerstone upon which Christianity rests. Without Easter, there would be no gospel message of hope, no promise of eternal life, and no assurance that love ultimately triumphs over sin and death. As the Apostle Paul boldly declared, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile” (1 Cor. 15:17). Easter, therefore, is not simply one holy day among many – it is the defining event of Christian belief.

At its core, Easter celebrates the victory of life over death. On Good Friday, Christians remember the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. His death on the cross appeared to be a tragic end, a moment when darkness seemed to prevail. Yet Easter Sunday reveals that the cross was not the end of the story. The empty tomb proclaims that God’s power is greater than human cruelty, greater than injustice and greater even than death itself. The resurrection affirms that Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God – and that His promises are trustworthy.

The meaning of Easter is deeply rooted in love and sacrifice. According to Christian teaching, Jesus willingly gave His life for the forgiveness of sins. “For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son (John 3:16). The resurrection confirms that this sacrifice was accepted and that reconciliation between God and humanity is possible. Easter reminds believers that no failure, no guilt, and no brokenness is beyond God’s redeeming grace. It is a message of restoration and new beginnings.

Easter also carries profound spiritual symbolism. The Easter season corresponds with spring in many parts of the world – a time when nature awakens from winter dormancy. Trees bud, flowers bloom, and new life emerges from what once seemed lifeless. This natural renewal mirrors the spiritual renewal Easter proclaims. Just as Christ rose from the tomb, believers are invited to arise from despair, fear, and sin into a new life marked by hope and purpose. The resurrection is not only an historical event; it is a present reality that transforms hearts and communities.

For Christians, Easter provides assurance of eternal life. Jesus declared, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (John 11:25). The empty tomb offers comfort in the face of loss and grief. It assures believers that death does not have the final word. Because Christ lives, they trust that they too shall live. This hope has sustained generations through persecution, hardship and personal tragedy.

Beyond its theological meaning, Easter calls people to live differently. The resurrection challenges believers to embody the values of the risen Christ – love, forgiveness, compassion, and justice. If death has been defeated, then fear need not control our lives. If Christ has risen, then hope should shape our outlook. Easter inspires courage to face life’s trials and generosity in serving others. It encourages communities of faith to become living witnesses to the transformative power of God’s love.

In a world marked by conflict, uncertainty, and despair, Easter offers a message that is both timeless and urgently relevant. It proclaims that light shines in the darkness and that the darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5). It invites every person to encounter the risen Christ and to experience renewal of heart and spirit.

Ultimately, Easter is a celebration of hope fulfilled and hope renewed. It reminds us that endings can become beginnings, that suffering can lead to glory, and that love is stronger than death. For Christians around the world, Easter is the joyful affirmation that Christ is Risen - He Is Risen Indeed and in that risen Lord, there is life, peace, and everlasting hope.

May joy in the power and glory of Jesus Christ rest in the hearts
of every member of the All Saints Cathedral parish family
this Easter season. God bless you and keep you.

Father David

Weekday Lenten Worship

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays at Noon

March 11, March 25

(with Fellowship afterward)

Fridays at 7 pm

March 6, 13, 20, 27

(Soup and Salad Supper at 6 pm)

Bitter Lamentations (English)

Wednesday, March 18 at noon

(with Fellowship afterward)

FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, February 22.

- Delegates to the upcoming PNCC General Synod were elected. Representing All Saints will be Gary Kurzynski and Cathy Andersen. Phil Smolka will be the alternate delegate.
- The congregation voted to allow the Parish Committee to sell the Chancery Building in Park Ridge.
- If you were unable to attend and wish to receive the packet of reports, contact Judie Szydowski.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 2

6 pm – Holy Mass in Polish

7 pm – Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper and Eucharistic Procession to the Altar of Repose, Stripping of Altars

Volunteers are needed to stay after the Mass to set up the altars for Good Friday.

Good Friday, April 3

10 am – Mass of the Presanctified and Adoration of the Cross, Opening of the Symbolic Grave of Christ

3 pm – Stations of the Cross

7 pm – Tenebrae and Lamentations of the Polish National Catholic Church

8 pm - Liturgia Wielkiego Piątku (Liturgy of Good Friday in Polish)

Holy Saturday, April 4

10 am – Ceremony of New Light with the Exhortations and Blessing of the Paschal Candle and Water, followed by Blessing of Easter Food

12 pm & 1 pm – Blessing of Easter Food

7 pm - Liturgia Wielkiej Soboty, Poświęcenie Koszyków Wielkanocnych (Liturgy of Holy Saturday in Polish, Blessing of Easter Food)

Easter Sunday, April 5

9 am – Resurrection Mass with Procession in English

11:30 am - Niedziela Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego. Procesja i Msza Święta poświęcenie koszyków Wielkanocnych (Resurrection Procession and Holy Mass in Polish, Blessing of Easter baskets)

Future Direction Committee
Cathy Andersen, Director

Springtime

Aah, Springtime at last! By the time you read this message, most, if not all, of the winter snow will have melted, even that from the Nor'easter that dumped up to 41" inches of snow in late February! The days are longer, the temperatures are warmer and the sun even seems brighter. We shed our winter coats and heavy sweaters for a lighter jacket and maybe even short sleeves. Our heavy winter boots can now be stored away as well.

If your Lenten Journey was fruitful through theological reflection, repentance and reconciliation, your heart will feel lighter on Resurrection Sunday as you once again raise your voice to sing The Gloria during Mass, and may we all joyfully sing together, "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!" During your Lenten Journey, you may have replaced a couple of your bad habits with good habits and also engaged in the three pillars of Lent. Now is the time you choose to continue your increased time in prayer, the discipline of fasting, and the generosity of almsgiving -- for you have left behind your old life and ways. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come," 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Springtime is a time of rebirth, refreshment, renewal, growth and hope. "For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is here in our land," Song of Solomon 2:11-12. Nature awakens after a long winter of dormancy. Grass begins to grow green again. Forsythias are blooming. Flowers sprout from the ground. Trees blossom with their flowering buds. We may enjoy sitting or walking outdoors breathing in the warmer fresh air. We watch as a bumble bee looks for its first food of the season. Chipmunks and groundhogs cautiously exit their burrows for the first time since hibernation started in early November. It seems as though the robins, cardinals and blue jays all sing a new song. Woodpeckers tap, tap, tap, tap, tap on a tree branch high above. You may also see bunnies chasing each other around the yard as they enjoy the warmer weather. Baby squirrels come out of their nests to explore their environment for the first time while following their mother closely. If you're up during the night, you may see an opossum or raccoon with babies foraging in your yard. Let us be thankful to God for all of His creation!

Those people who are a little older or who may have a heart or lung condition, arthritis or any number of ailments may once again be able to get out and return to church. The harsh elements of winter made it either impossible or difficult for them to get out. Driving may not have been a safe option for them. Perhaps they were unsure on their feet in the slippery conditions. Inhaling cold air has adverse effects for those with heart or lung issues. The fear of catching a cold or the flu for those with decreased immunity was a reality for some as well. Let's welcome all those people back to church with open arms! Let us smile and converse with them. Let us hold them in a longer than usual gentle embrace or hug. They may have been captive in their home or in the four walls of their apartment during the winter season, some home alone. Let us be thankful that they can join our church community once again!

Springtime is a wonderful season of the year! We have anticipated it since winter began. Each day brings us abundant blessings from God. Each day is a new beginning! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Almighty Father - Thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ! Thank You for Your beautiful creation! May this Springtime be a time of rebirth, renewal, refreshment, growth and hope. May I increase my service to You and others for Your greater glory. I pray these things in Your Son's most Precious and Glorious Name! Amen!

SPECIAL MASS TIME ALERT

On March 15 and March 22, Polish Mass will be celebrated at 12:30 pm. Father Senior Bogumil Czaja will be the guest Celebrant.

From the Western Diocese Newsletter

Outreach Tip for March:

Charting Parishioners: We have talked about the importance of parishes having a roster of parishioners. Once that is done, a further step can be taken to chart or plot on a map the location of all parishioner homes. This will give a visual display and may show more clearly where the parishioners are in relation to the parish. There may be clusters of parishioners in different parts of the community which may help identify strategies for marketing to those areas through newspapers, billboards, direct mail marketing, flyers, or give inspiration for other ideas. Charting may also help with long-term strategic planning regarding the location of the parish. This project may allow for parishioners to help in the process, which may identify those who like to help with these kinds of tasks!



The Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
St. Michael the Archangel National Catholic Church
6629 W. 133rd Avenue in Cedar Lake, Indiana



Everyone is cordially invited to attend

A Lenten Tea

Featuring Guest Speaker, Ms. Cindy Varencamp
"The Beatitudes - Jesus' Instruction Manual" found in Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 12 noon
in our Fellowship Hall



Tickets are \$15 per person
Must be purchased by March 8, 2026
Includes food and beverages



Contact Christine Wachna 847-927-9534 christine.wachna@att.net
or any SAMBS Member

Deadline to Register is Sunday, March 8th!

EASTER DINNER

All Saints Cathedral Parish
Annual Easter Dinner
PTO Basket Raffle

Sunday, April 12th, 2026



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 (value of \$50) are welcome!

Contact Margaret Rowinski for tickets.

PTO ANNUAL EASTER SAUSAGE SALE

ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL P.T.O.
ANNUAL EASTER POLISH SAUSAGE SALE

Last day to order is March 15, 2026 For Office Use Only

	Quantity Ordered		Actual Weight	Price	Total
Fresh Polish Sausage	_____	lbs.	_____	\$4.00 lb	_____
Smoked Polish Sausage	_____	links	_____	\$4.00 lb	_____
Horseradish (4 oz jar)	_____			\$4.00 /jar	_____
					TOTAL DUE

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

For questions contact: Hope Mierzejewski at 602-579-7861 or email Margaret Rowinski at Mrowinski53@aol.com

PICK UP is Sunday, MARCH 22, 2026 at the Pavillion (by noon)
 Payment is due at time of pick-up. Cash or check payable to All Saints PTO

NEW AT ALL SAINTS: WE NOW HAVE A SUGGESTION BOX!



Pursuant to the remarks by Father David Rowinski at our September 2025 Semi-Annual Parish Meeting, the Future Direction Committee has placed a suggestion and comment box on the table in the vestibule. We hope to gather written comments, constructive ideas for growth, insight, recommendations, and even criticism from parishioners to help empower the future.

Please feel free to drop off a suggestion or comment that will inform the Parish Committee or clergy of something that needs attention or will improve All Saints Cathedral Parish. All submissions are valuable; they will be handled with discretion and remain anonymous. The box will be opened only by Father David Rowinski.

Women's Society News



Do you have surplus craft supplies? Are you tired of crocheting, knitting or candy making? Want to explore a new hobby,

medium or material? Bring your unwanted craft supplies and gear that you no longer use to the church on **March 1, 8 and 15**. A table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. You can then "shop" from the craft items donated by others! Any items left over will be donated to a charity shop. Contact Coordinator Judie Szydlowski for more information. **ENDS NEXT SUNDAY!**

Clean Up Reminder

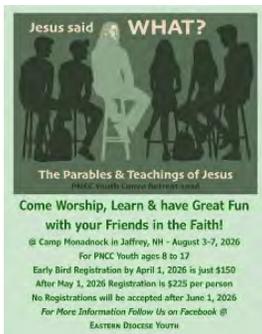


A Gentle Reminder

As we share our church spaces, please remember to clean up after yourself—whether it's wiping up spills, returning supplies, or tidying the area you used. If you're unable to do so, please contact **Deacon Doug** or ask another member for assistance. Thank you for helping keep our church welcoming and cared for by all.

2026 Youth Convocation

August 3-7, 2026
Camp Monadnock, Jeffrey, New Hampshire



Detailed information is now available in the God's Field, including registration, tshirt orders, materials and health forms. Children aged 8 and older can attend. Early registration fee (before April 30) is \$150; After May 1 the fee is \$250. Contact Sandy Dobrovolskis for additional information or contact Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich Jr. at RobNem21@aol.com.

Good News: Tribute for Rudy Smolka

Cindi Smolka was kind enough to share a State of Illinois Senate Resolution honoring her husband Rudy. Introduced by State Senator Laura Murphy of the 28th Senate District, the resolution has been read into the Senate record and will be forever memorialized in the annals of the State of Illinois history.



Senate Resolution No. 527

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Rudolph Joseph “Rudy” Smolka of Park Ridge, who passed away on November 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Smolka, the son of the late Walter and Wanda Smolka, was born in Chicago on January 19, 1948; he graduated from Lindblom Technical High School and Illinois College; he married Cynthia “Cindi” Smolka in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Smolka built a long and respected career as an accountant; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Smolka was dedicated to serving others and his community; he was a member of the Boy Scouts of America for more than 50 years, serving as an Eagle Scout, a troop leader, a mentor, and a supporter; he was also a longtime member of the Kiwanis and a board member of the Center of Concern; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Smolka was a man of deep faith and a lifelong member of the Polish National Catholic Church, and he also served on the Park Ridge Men’s Prayer Breakfast Committee; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Smolka embraced all things Chicago, and he was an avid Chicago Bears and White Sox fan; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Smolka was a friend to all, and his family was the true pride and joy of his life; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Smolka was the husband of Cindi, the father of Matthew (Julia) Smolka and Lauren (Jason) Arndt; the grandfather of five; the brother of Sandra (the late Sonny) Dobrovolskis and Phillip (Sylvia) Smolka; and the uncle of many; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of Rudolph Joseph “Rudy” Smolka and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Rudy Smolka as an expression of our deepest sympathy.

Adopted by the Senate, January 14, 2026.

Welcome to the world CC!

Congratulations to Mark & MaryJo Kowalsky, who have become Grandparents for the first time!

Carmella Celine or "CC" was born on February 23rd at 3 am. Her parents are Mark & MaryJo's daughter Lisa and her husband Joe. Also pictured is CC's uncle Eric (with mom and baby).

God Bless this Family!



Happy Birthday Lori Scott!



Parish Committee Opening



The Parish Committee is still in need of a Recording Secretary. Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month (except December). We use Zoom for online attendance, and record the meetings to make it easier for the Secretary to produce the minutes. This is important work, and we ask you to consider coming forward to fill this position. Contact Father David or Chairman Gary Kurzynski.



**North Central
Seniorate
Lenten Retreat**

Saturday,
February 28,
2026

Saint Michael
the Archangel
Parish, Cedar
Lake, Indiana



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.

2026 Membership Dues

Membership Dues for the year 2026 are now due and payable. You can pay in full, or make partial payments throughout the year. Dues are \$125 per person or \$250 per family. Contact Financial Secretary Judie Szydowski if you have any questions.



The **APRIL** issue of the All Saints Newsletter will be published on Easter Sunday, April 5. The deadline for submission is **Wednesday, April 1.**

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

Remember to include captions for your pictures!

Thursdays in Lent

Join Deacon Doug at 6 pm on Thursdays for “Lenten Hours”. You can attend in person or via Zoom. Contact Deacon Doug for the booklets and Zoom info.

A poster for Polish National Alliance Scholarship Programs. It features a blue background with a crest in the top right. The text reads: '2026 - 2027 POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS Now accepting applications! Returning again are our merit-based programs: UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP Thanks to the generosity of our member donors, we are proud to announce the following NEW scholarship programs: EDMUND (NASIEROWSKI) NASH SCHOLARSHIP WALTER & BERNICE KOTAPKA SCHOLARSHIP WALTER DROZDAL SCHOLARSHIP Deadline: April 15, 2026 Official rules & regulations are available on pna-znp.org'. The bottom right shows a jar of money and a pink piggy bank wearing a graduation cap.

2026 - 2027
POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS
Now accepting applications!
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UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
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WALTER DROZDAL SCHOLARSHIP
Deadline: April 15, 2026
Official rules & regulations are available on pna-znp.org

If you wish to attend the 25th Mission & Evangelism Workshop, please contact Father David asap so that travel arrangements can be coordinated. Full registration details are on the PNCC website (www.pncc.org).

25th Mission & Evangelism Workshop



25th Mission & Evangelism Workshop
by Polish National Catholic Church  89

Below please find links to the 25th Mission & Evangelism Workshop information (letter, informational pamphlet with workshop schedule, and registration form).

The workshop will be held on Friday, May 29th through Sunday, May 31st at St. Joseph's Parish in Westfield, MA.

We hope you will consider joining us for this workshop and look forward to your attendance.

The deadline for registering for the Workshop is Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, National Mission & Evangelism Commission Chairman

Parish Phone: (313) 365-0218 email: Fr.J.Nowak@gmail.com

[25th M&E Workshop Cover Letter](#)
[25th M&E Workshop Informational Pamphlet & Schedule](#)
[25th M&E Workshop Registration Form](#)

REGISTER FOR EVENT

Date And Time
2026-05-29 @ 04:00 PM to 2026-05-31 @ 01:00 PM

Registration End Date
2026-04-29

Location
73 Main Street,
Westfield, MA

Share With Friends





March 1-15 – Women’s Society Craft Swap
March 29 – Palm Sunday
April 5 – Easter Sunday
April 12 – Easter Dinner & PTO Basket Raffle
May 29-31 – PNCC Mission & Evangelism Workshop (Westfield, MA)
August 3-7 – PNCC Youth Convocation (Jeffrey, New Hampshire)
August 9 – Summerfest
September 28-30 – PNCC General Synod (Manchester, New Hampshire)

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

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Christina Danielkiewicz, Derek Michaels, Dave Jazdzewski, Susan Occhipinti, Don Nystrom, Nancy Walton, Stenia Dabrowska, Jeff Gap, Jason Malkowski, Sophia Forchas, Audrey Bockenbauer, Cheryl Miceli, Jim Lakowski, Byron Sahovich, Susan Meyer, Luz Raygosa, Eluid Raygosa, Suzanne Eberle, Margaret “Gosia” Szajowska, Richard Kitching, Ed Davis, Derek Jones, Alivia Lindbeck, Kathy Joseph, 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: 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

March 23 *(in person)*

Future Direction Committee

March 15, April 19

Parish Committee

March 17

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

March 15

Women's Society

March 22

Saint Cecelia Choir Rehearsal

March 23

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 Szydowski

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