

THE

Journey Jesus Christ is Risen!

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Easter and Not So Low Sunday

My brothers and sisters, it is time for all of us to rejoice as Easter people and proclaim to all the corners of the world that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!



Father Adam

Easter Sunday, for most clergy, is the last day of a very busy and sometimes hectic week. I know many clergy friends who will go home Easter Sunday afternoon to take an extended nap till Monday morning. Even for the laity of the Church, Holy Week and the Resurrection Mass are very emotional and spiritually draining. That is why the Sunday after Easter Sunday tends to be a bit of a disappointment in attendance and liturgy (more on that in a moment).

But first, we are called to be Easter People! This means that while yes, we do build up all year to the excitement of Easter Sunday, our Easter mission does not end when we leave the Church. In fact, it is the great beginning! It was the Resurrection of Jesus Christ that showed the Apostles and many others that He truly is the Son of God, the Messiah, and after witnessing the miracle of the First Easter, they set out to be Easter People, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

We often hear of the gloom and doom situation of the Church, not any specific Church, but the whole Church. People say that Christianity is dying, that God is dead, but no my brothers and sisters,

God is not dead, but our faith seems to be on life support. We must be Easter people like the Apostles. We MUST share our faith with others at school, work, the gym, wherever we are, because if we are truly Christians, then wherever we are, others will see Christ!

And this year, my friends, is the perfect year to begin living as Easter People because we won't have to experience the usual 'Low Sunday' disappointment here at BVMC.

The old tradition of calling the Sunday following Easter Sunday "Low Sunday" has its roots in the fact that Easter is the Holiest of all liturgies, and all the bells and whistles of the high Mass are used. The following Sunday's liturgy is a low liturgy compared to that of Easter. However, over time, Low Sunday is now called so because of the unfortunate reality that the attendance is considerably low compared to Easter. However, for us here at Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish, Low Sunday will be anything but 'low'.

We will be celebrating two milestones on Sunday, April 19th. Our 10 year anniversary at our home in Latham and our 90th anniversary as a parish family!

The Anniversary Mass will be said at 1:00pm and a dinner will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Many ecumenical guests and PNCC clergy have been invited to join us in giving thanks to God for his many blessings upon our Parish.

Blessed Virgin Mary
Of Czestochowa
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Adam Egan, Pastor

250 Maxwell Road
Latham, NY 12110

Church Office: 518.453.2258

Rectory: 518.437.1889

Email: padreegan@bvmc.org
Website: www.bvmc.org

Parish Office Hours:
Mon - Thu, 9am - 2pm

A Sunday with Friends at the Eddy Ford Home



On Sunday, March 15, Fr. Adam, the Choir Lutnia and some faithful from Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish visited Stanley and Edna Radzyminski and the residents of the Eddy Ford Nursing Home.



Fr. Adam celebrated Mass while the Choir Lutnia led the residents in singing some familiar Lenten Hymns.



After the Homily, Stanley and Edna were presented with an Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa in appreciation for all of the years of faithful service to our parish and to Christ's Church. The Icon is currently hung in their sitting room where it is a reminder that although they cannot be with us every Sunday morning in Church, they are always with us in spirit.

The residents, their families and the staff of the Eddy Ford Home were grateful for the visit and the opportunity to hear God's Word and to partake of the Holy Eucharist.

Stanley and Edna send their greetings and love to all of the parishioners of our parish.

Please consider joining us next time we celebrate Mass at the Eddy Ford Home.

-Submitted by Fr. Adam



A Gift to BVMC and the PNCC

BVMC received a memorial gift of \$2,000 from the Stanley Dzikowski Trust Fund. No one recognized the name, so Nancy Scarchilli, wrote Mr. Dzikowski's nephew to inquire about the connection with our parish. Here is the letter that BVMC received:

March, 14, 2009

Dear Nancy,

I am answering your letter dated 3/2/09. My uncle Stanley Dzikowski was born in Winnipeg, Canada, June 10, 1915 and was 93 when he passed away. His mother's name was Karolina Janusy. He was an only child who married my aunt around 1968 in his 50's. He retired out of the oil refinery when he was 63. Stan and my aunt had no children.

Stan deeply loved his Polish Catholic Church and at one time before WWII he studied to be a priest but

never completed because of ailing parents and WWII. Stan never left his family home in Calumet City, IL, except for brief visits to relatives (cousins) and vacations. Some of his relatives still live in Poland.

In life he and my aunt would never take anyone's advice about their wishes (no estate planning), the lawyers and people he didn't know would have received his nest egg. I cannot stress the importance of a will and revocable living trust. There are approximately 125 Polish National Catholic Churches in North America and each one received \$2000.

This was Stanley's choice and his wishes were carried out. His date of death was October 24, 2008.

I hope this answers some of your questions and I also can't stress enough the importance of estate planning.

God Bless, Ernie Wright.

What a wonderful gift Mr. Stanley Dzikowski has given to every PNCC parish. We must truly be thankful for those who support the mission and faith of our church and our parish. This money will be a great assistance to many parishes which find themselves struggling in this tough economic time. Remember, if God is for us, who can be against us.

I would like to thank Nancy Scarchilli for writing to Mr. Wright about this wonderful gift.

We will have a memorial mass for Mr. Dzikowski on Sunday, April 26th.

(The original copy of the letter is hanging on the parish bulletin board)

A Helping Hand

When our delegation went to the Seniorate meeting hosted by Fr. Rafal, Holy Spirit parish in Little Falls on March 21, each representative gave a report on the activities and well being of their parish. Moved by the struggles and faith of the Holy Spirit congregation, our parish took a second collection on Palm Sunday and collected \$700. As decided at the March 24 parish committee meeting, BVMC matched the amount collected and the YMS of R contributed \$100 for a total of \$1,500. Fr. Adam will present our gift to the Holy Spirit parish at our anniversary celebration, April 19. May God bless you for your generous giving for our sister parish.

Spring Has Sprung!

Many lucky winners brought home treasures from the Spring Social, Auction, and Children's Fashion Show, sponsored by Jonah's Journey this year on March 29. Businesses and parishioners donated a total of 57 baskets and a table full of children's prizes for the Auction. The kitchen was hopping all afternoon, but our models for the Fashion Show stole the show!



SOLD OUT!

BVMC's Czestochowa Kitchen is dressing the Easter tables of the community with pierogi, kapusta, golabki, bigos, and butter lambs. Marvin and Helen Shooks also made 60 loaves of their delicious Polish bread (placek). The March Food Sale topped all expectations. We opened our doors at 9am and by 12:30 the SOLD OUT sign was hung on the door.

Sacristan's Corner:



Hello BVMC! This is not Sacristan Bob, but rather, Fr. Adam speaking on behalf of Bob. As many of you know, Bob had emergency surgery on his eye to repair a detached retina.



Bob is at home where he is recovering and truly living the Lenten Season as he has to keep his head down for some time. *(Irony at it's best is telling a man to keep his head up in spirit when he has to physically keep his head down).* He is in good spirits and hopes to be back worshipping at BVMC soon. Please keep Bob and Denise in your prayers and before you know it Bob will be back with us on Sunday Mornings, Thanks be to God!

Prayer List

- Silvio Brighenti
- Irene Calka
- Joshua Cuttita
- Jean Egan
- Alice Houser
- Emma Kelly
- Carl Layman
- Karen & Richard Malchow
- Nancy Merrill
- Robert Nagle
- Genevieve Novak
- Nancy Pascale
- Elizabeth Peplowski
- Veronica Pilitowski
- Henry Radzyminski
- Stanley & Edna Radzyminski
- Michael Robochik
- John Sarchilli
- Bob Shovah
- Jean Tomaski
- Jane White

To add or remove a name from the parish prayer list please see Father Adam, thank you.

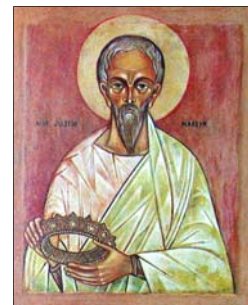
Saint of the Month: Justin Martyr

Feast Day: April 14

Justin was born around 100 (both his birth and death dates are approximate) at Flavia Neapolis (ancient Shechem, modern Nablus) in Samaria (the middle portion of Israel, between Galilee and Judea) of pagan Greek parents. He was brought up with a good education in rhetoric, poetry, and history. He studied various schools of philosophy in Alexandria and Ephesus, joining himself first to Stoicism, then Pythagoreanism, then Platonism, looking for answers to his questions. While at Ephesus, he was impressed by the steadfastness of the Christian martyrs, and by the personality of an aged Christian man whom he met by chance while walking on the seashore. This

man spoke to him about Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises made through the Jewish prophets. Justin was overwhelmed. "Straightway a flame was kindled in my soul," he writes, "and a love of the prophets and those who are friends of Christ possessed me." Justin became a Christian, but he continued to wear the cloak that was the characteristic uniform of the professional teacher of philosophy. His position was that pagan philosophy, especially Platonism, is not simply wrong, but is a partial grasp of the truth, and serves as "a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ." He engaged in debates and disputations with non-Christians of all varieties, pagans, Jews, and heretics. He opened a school of Christian

philosophy and accepted students, first at Ephesus and then later at Rome. There he engaged the Cynic philosopher Crescens in debate, and soon after was arrested on the charge of practicing an unauthorized religion. (It is suggested that Crescens lost the debate and denounced Justin to the authorities out of spite.) He was tried before the Roman prefect Rusticus, refused to renounce Christianity, and was put to death by beheading along with six of his students, one of them a woman. A record of the trial, probably authentic, is preserved, known as *The Acts of Justin the Martyr*.



BINGO!

BVMC had its own version of March Madness with unprecedented crowds for unprecedented prizes. A lucky winner - one of our regulars - took

home \$3,100 a few weeks ago and another regular won \$2,000 the following week. With the swelling crowd and delicious food coming out of the kitchen, the kitchen experienced its best month ever...have you tried the Rubens?

While Bingo is providing a significant source of the revenue we depend upon for operating the parish, we are in *immediate* need of two bankers and one additional caller. If you can help (beginning April 24), please contact Dick Malchow as soon as possible.

Grateful appreciation goes out to the Bingo and Kitchen volunteers, who have supported this effort since 2002.

Your input is needed!

The Journey is the newsletter of all the faithful of our parish. You are all invited to contribute to the monthly Journey. Please share your stories of faith, your concerns for the church or even recipes if you like! Please email or deliver any articles for the Journey to Fr. Adam. Thank you and God Bless!

Of Note:

Hall Rental

The Parish Hall is a great venue for parties, receptions, showers, business meetings, family reunions, and for every other occasion. Call 453-2258 to inquire.

Bingo

Bingo is held every Thursday at 7:15pm. Come early and enjoy a fantastic meal prepared by the Cześćochowa Polish Kitchen staff. Then try your luck at bingo. Another way to support our fundraising efforts.

Future Articles - Your Input

Articles for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent or given to Father Adam.

Stuff One not Ten

When you miss a week or more of church and want to catch up with your offering envelopes, please be aware that you can use just one envelope and one check to bring yourself up to date – there is no need to fill out separate envelopes for the dates that you missed or to write multiple checks. Your offering envelopes are used to credit your contributions over the entire year, rather than on a week-by-week basis.

For your convenience, remember that you may use Visa or Mastercard for your contributions.

Sunday Readings

April 5: Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

April 12: Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9

April 19: Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31

April 26 : Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 John 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48