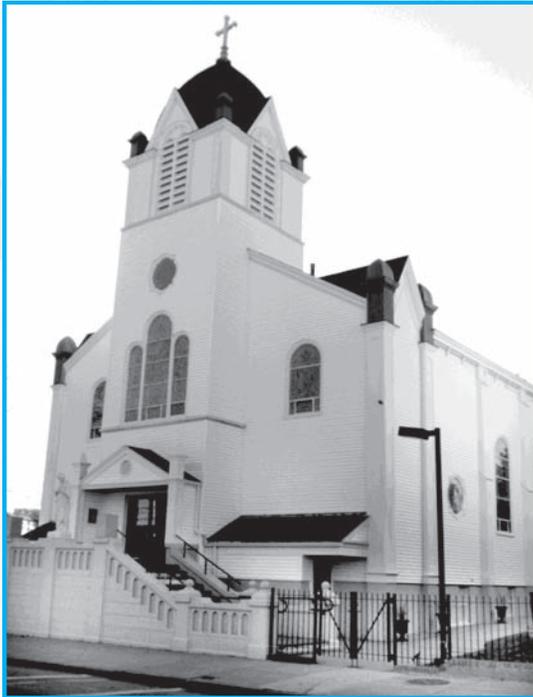


# The Parish Family of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



**Celebrating 113 Years:  
1905-2018**

as the Mother Church of Polonia in the  
Greater New Bedford Area  
235 North Front Street, New Bedford,  
Massachusetts 02746

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## **Conventual Franciscan Friars:**

Father Conrad Salach, O.F.M. Conv., Pastor  
[fracms@yahoo.com](mailto:fracms@yahoo.com)

## **Masses:**

Saturday (Lord's Day Vigil) .....4:00 PM  
Sunday Bi-Lingual English-Polish..... 10:00 AM  
Monday-Saturday .....7:30 AM  
Holy Day .....Please consult the bulletin

## **Devotions:**

Rosary: Lord's Day before Mass  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:  
First Fridays after Mass  
Divine Mercy Novena:  
Good Friday to Easter Saturday  
OLPH Triduum: June 24, 25, 26

**Parish Registration:** If you are new to the area, we welcome you to join our Parish Family. Please introduce yourself after Mass or at the rectory.

**Baptism:** Kindly consult with the Pastor at least a month in advance. Baptism Preparation Class is required.

**Reconciliation:** Confessions are heard before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Masses and at other times upon request.

**Marriage:** Kindly consult with the Pastor one year before your planned wedding date.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Kindly advise Father Conrad of your impending operation or current hospital stay, so that you can receive this sacrament of healing.

**Ministry to Parishioners Confined to Home:** Housebound parishioners are urged to notify Father Conrad of your desire to receive the sacraments.

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:** As a Parish Family, we strive to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ and emulate Him through His teachings. We honor Mary our Mother and promote a strong community through service and ministry. We extend our hands and open our hearts to embrace all people in unity, young and old, wishing to join us in worshipping together as a Parish Family in the spirit of Franciscan Joy, Peace and Love.

**OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES** will be celebrated according to our Lord's Day schedule, *i.e.*, Christmas Eve (Monday) at 4 p.m. and Christmas Day at 10 a.m. The choir will lead us in carols/koledy at 3:40 as a prelude to Christmas Eve Mass.

Invite your relatives and friends—especially **those we don't often see here on Sunday**—to come to Christmas Liturgy with you. It will be a blessing for them—and for all of us as well.

**AS WE ENTER THE SECOND HALF OF ADVENT**, the Gospel of each Mass brings us to our celebration of Christmas. The passages are taken from the Infancy Narratives of Saints Matthew and Luke. On these days, the first reading is taken from the Hebrew Scriptures and chosen to match the Gospel. We can almost imagine Matthew and Luke having the Old Testament open on their desks while they wrote their Gospels. The sense of anticipation and fulfillment builds as we read the story **of the preparation for Jesus' first coming** into the world for us.

**A REALLY BIG "THANK YOU"** to the volunteers who staffed the pre-Christmas food sale and to each and every member of the pierogi- and golumbki-making team who made sure that the freezers were **filled with enough of these "specialties of the house"** to satisfy the many happy customers. God bless each one of you!

**CHRISTMAS MORNING** will be happy and memorable for many area children because **of your kindness under the "Giving Tree."** May God reward your goodness.

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED** to help decorate the church for Christmas. The Christmas Tree set-up team will put up the trees in the sanctuary next Sunday after Mass.

The finished product is always so beautiful and a joy for us to admire, but it really does require a lot of parishioners working together to make it happen. May we count on you to help?

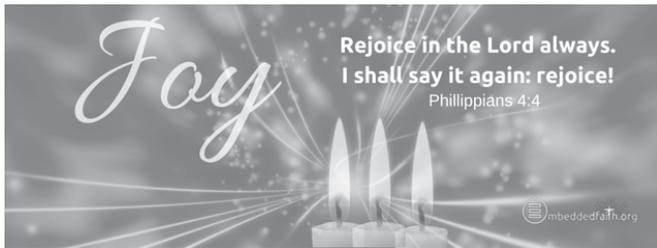
**OPLATEK** preliminary plans are underway. The anticipated date is Sunday afternoon, **January 13th, and we're looking into the possibility of another nice celebration at Me and Ed's. Circle your calendar, and watch for further information.**

**A GENTLE REMINDER** to those parishioners who have not yet submitted their annual parish dues (\$25 per adult parishioner) that the year is just about over.

**A PRAYERFUL "THANK YOU"** for your kindness to this year's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. May God reward you for your caring.

**AN OLPH BINGO GIFT CERTIFICATE** makes a very nice Christmas gift for your bingo-playing friends. Certificates are available in any denomination at our Bingo and in the parish office.

**A CONCERT** of beautiful carols will be presented by the St. Francis of Assisi choir in their church next Sunday afternoon at 2:00. Father Kevin Harrington and the choir invite you to the free concert and reception that will follow.

**Sat. - Dec. 15– 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**4:00 PM** +Lucille Kolbeck  
Req. Polish Women's Business  
& Professional Club

**Sun. - Dec. 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 AM** +Bill Arabasz  
Req. Wife, Helen

**Mon.– Dec. 17– Advent Weekday**

**7:30 AM** OLPH Parishioners  
Living & Deceased

**Tues.– Dec. 18 - Advent Weekday**

**7:30 AM** +Julia Salach  
Req. Son & Daughter

**Wed. - Dec. 19 - Advent Weekday**

**7:30 AM** Healing  
Req. Jack Chmiel

**Thur.– Dec. 20 - Advent Weekday**

**7:30 AM** +Alice Szanyi

**Fri.– Dec. 21 - Advent Weekday**

**7:30 AM** God's Blessings  
Req. Andrew Duda

**Sat.-Dec. 22– Advent Weekday**

**7:30 AM** +Cynthia Lewis & ++Macedo Family  
Req. Cynthia Linhares

**Sat.- Dec. 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

**4:00 PM** +Helena & Alvin Bodzioch  
Req. Ann Bodzioch Robinson

**Sun. - Dec. 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 AM** +Mildred Poitras  
Req. Joe & Wanda Williams

Sisters and Brothers of Our Parish Family,

At a buffet, have you ever checked out the dessert first? We could eat our meal backwards, beginning with the dessert, then the main course, and **finally, the appetizer. But, while we'd still be eating the same food, it might not be as fulfilling as enjoying each part of the meal in its proper place. In fact, dessert could fill us up so that we wouldn't even enjoy the rest of the meal.**

Sometimes we experience the same temptation with Christmas. Our culture tends to skip Advent and start celebrating Christmas right after Thanksgiving, or even earlier, as we see "Christmas" displays in malls and department stores in October! **Then it's all packed up and stored away beginning on December 26th.**

This year, let us return to the ancient practice of embracing the whole cycle of the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany as one ongoing joyous celebration. Preparation comes first; then the celebration continues for the (twelve) days of Christmas until Epiphany, followed by the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord.

The Christmas Season *begins*, not ends, on December 25th. **So, let's not cheat ourselves by cutting short our Christmas celebrations. Let's keep our tree lit and decorations up until at least January 6th. Let the neighbors wonder what's going on, and maybe they'll catch on and begin to observe Christmas the way it's supposed to be.**

On this Third Sunday of Advent, known as *Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday*, the double theme of joy and encouragement permeates our Mass readings and prayers. We rejoice at the realization that Jesus our Savior was born as one like us to redeem us, and that He continues to live with us in word and Sacrament every day of our lives. May we welcome Him—and share His grace, forgiveness, and mercy with others.

Peace and Blessings,  
Father Conrad