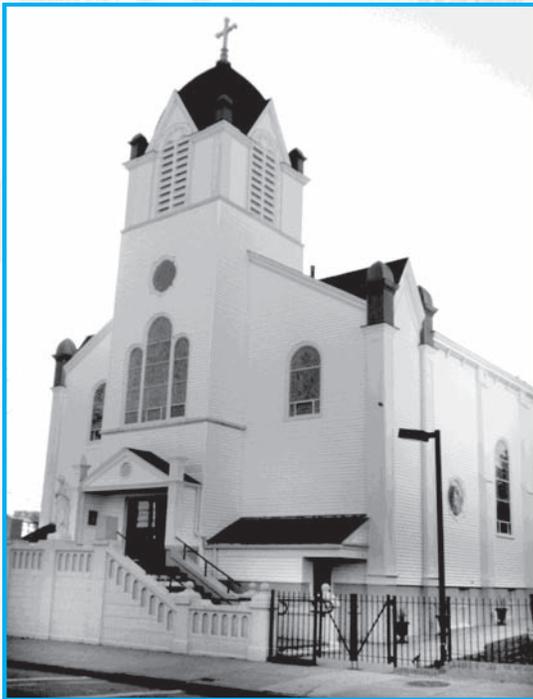


The Parish Family of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



**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

Masses:

Saturday (Lord's Day Vigil)4:00 PM
Sunday Bi-Lingual English-Polish..... 10:00 AM
Monday-Saturday7:30 AM
Holy DayPlease 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.

THIS SATURDAY IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

the Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception** of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Parish Masses for the Holy Day will be celebrated Friday evening (the vigil) at 5 o'clock and Saturday morning at 7:30.

Our Blessed Mother is the Patroness of our nation under the title of her Immaculate Conception. For this reason, this Holy Day of Obligation is of particular importance to all of us, the Church in the United States.

Please note that the 4 o'clock Mass Saturday afternoon will be the Mass of the Second Sunday of Advent and will not satisfy our Mass obligation for the Holy Day.

OPLATKI are available at the church entrances and at the rectory. The offering is \$3 per envelope of five wafers. Whether or not your family celebrates the *Wigilia*, breaking and sharing the Christmas wafer with family and friends on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or during the Christmas Season remains a beautiful time-honored tradition.

OUR PRE-CHRISTMAS POLISH FOOD SALE

will be on Saturday, December 15th, from 10 in the morning until 1 in the afternoon in the parish hall. Our famous OLPH pierogi (cabbage, cheese, and potato), golumbki, and cabbage soup—all prepared with T.L.C.—will be available.

Save yourself some time and energy as you prepare your family oplatek. Come early to avoid being disappointed.

CHOOSE LIFE!... "Obamacare" provides free genetic testing during pregnancy for conditions that cannot be treated prenatally. This provision exposes more unborn children to abortion as government-funded genetic testing provides an increasing number of parents the opportunity to abort children with disabilities.—Pro-Life Reporter

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to an **Advent Taize Service**, "Prepare the Way of the Lord," at St. John Neumann Church (157 Middleboro Road, East Freetown) this Sunday evening at 7 o'clock.

THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE, set up in the back of the church by Catholic Social Services, gives us an opportunity each year at this time to help Santa make Christmas morning very special for children who otherwise might be overlooked.

Please consider taking one or more "ornaments" from the tree; then, kindly bring your gifts, unwrapped, to Mass next Sunday. Catholic Social Services will gift-wrap them.

NEXT WEEK'S RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

will help address retirement funding for elderly and infirm religious sisters, brothers, and priests whose Orders and Congregations are facing rising health-care costs and declining income.

Today there are more than twice as many religious past the age of 70 than are younger than 70. (In 10 years, there will be four times as many.) Income will continue to decline as more religious reach retirement age and leave compensated ministry.

Please give generously to next weekend's Retirement Fund for Religious collection to help underwrite the direct care of elderly religious.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is the title by which we recognize that the Blessed Virgin Mary, by a special grace of God, was exempt from original sin. She announced herself with this title to Bernadette Soubirous in the apparitions of Lourdes in 1858. The authenticity of these apparitions has been verified by the authority of the Church in view of the great number of miracles that have taken place in the Sanctuary of Lourdes.

The Immaculate Conception was solemnly defined and proclaimed by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854: "*The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.*"

Our Blessed Mother is the new Eve, created without stain of sin on her soul to be the Mother of Jesus and of all the children of God.

**Sat. - Dec. 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent**

4:00 PM ++Augustyn Family
 Req. Bob & Mary Ann Laprise

Sun. - Dec. 2—1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM +Ferdinand Gula
 Req. Family

Mon.— Dec. 3- St. Francis Xavier

7:30 AM +Fernando Monteiro
 Req. Wife Pat & Family

Tues.— Dec. 4 - St. John Damascene

7:30 AM OLPH Parishioners,
 Living & Deceased

Wed. - Dec. 5 - Advent Weekday

7:30 AM +Henry Newbigging

Thur.— Dec. 6— St. Nicholas

7:30 AM Friars, Relatives, & Benefactors
 of the Franciscan Order
 Living & Deceased

Fri.— Dec. 7 - St. Ambrose

7:30 AM +Herbert King

**Fri. -Dec. 7- Immaculate Conception B.V.M.
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

5:00 PM OLPH Parishioners,
 Living & Deceased

**Sat.-Dec. 8-Immaculate Conception B.V.M.
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

7:30 AM +Rita Schemm
 Req. Tom & George

Sat.- Dec. 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM +Patricia L. Szczur
 Req. Ann Bodzioch Robinson

Sun. - Dec. 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM +Janina & +Mieczyslaw Kucharski
 Req. Nancy A. Kondziolka

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

A recent news item claimed that 45% of adults surveyed would skip Christmas if they could. When I came across this figure, I thought it had to be a misprint. But after considering how so many people are in a frenzy this time of the year--decorating their homes in mid-November, Christmas music right after Halloween, gift shopping madness, with "Black Friday" two weeks before Thanksgiving—it became clear. By the time December 25th arrives, they are tired of it and **rush to put it all away for another year. It's up to us—you and me--to change this madness that seems to grow worse every year.**

For starters, let's treat ourselves to savoring the Advent Season, a time of *joyfully awaiting* the celebration of Christ's Birthday. Advent is not the Christmas Season.

A beautiful tradition for the home is the Advent wreath. **When, at the main meal, each of the four weeks' candles is lit, we recall that Christ, the long-anticipated Messiah, became the Light of the World at the moment of His Birth.** So, although we anticipate the joy of the approaching Christmas Season, we do not yet enter fully into the celebration.

Next, during Advent it's important to make the time to pray--for blessings upon family, friends, and one's self; for all who are in need; for the sick, the dying, the less fortunate—and, last but not least, prayers of thanksgiving.

Then, if it's been a while, there's no time like the present to go to confession. For when we turn from sin and back to God, we become more like Him and can bring His Light to a world too often darkened by sin.

Finally, when Christmas does arrive, we will be able to celebrate the reason for the Season, **Jesus Christ**, the gift of God's love for us in giving us His Son—the greatest of all gifts!

Putting these suggestions into practice, our own Advent and Christmas will be less stressful, more meaningful, and, a lot more joyful.

Peace and Blessings,
 Father Conrad