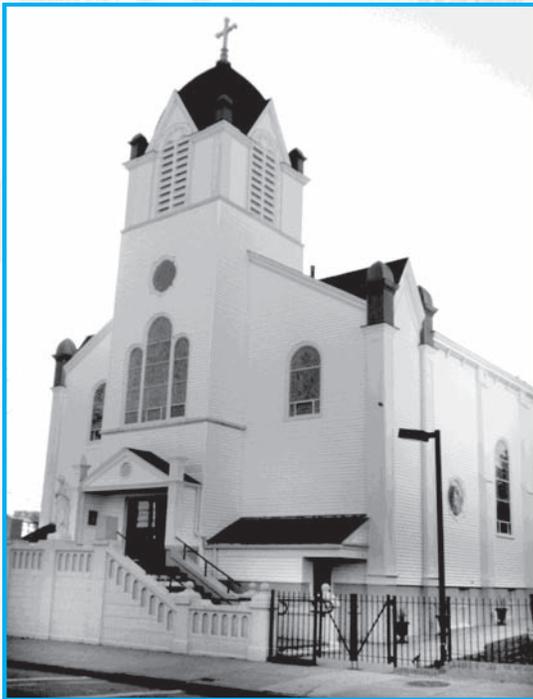


The Parish Family of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



**Celebrating 114 Years:
1905-2019**

as the Mother Church of Polonia in the
Greater New Bedford Area
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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.

THANK YOU to the enthusiastic crew who took down, packed up, and put away the church's Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands, and nativity set until next Christmas Season: Christine Regula, Grace Barcz, Joanna Hunt, Joseph Sobolewski, Kevin Michalski, Michael Gonet, Peter Barcz, and Radek Ficek, who made this big job look easy. God bless each one of them!

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

began this past Friday, January 18th (the original date of the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter) and continues until January 25th (the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul)--dates proposed in 1908 for their symbolic significance.

May Jesus' prayer, "*that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in Me and I in You*" (John 17.2), also be ours. May we be united in prayer, especially this week, that divisions within the Body of Christ will cease, and our unity in the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--may one day soon be a reality.

YOUR HELP for just 90 minutes (5-6:30 or 6:30-8) this Thursday evening at our parish bingo will be a grace-opportunity for **stewardship of your time** to help your parish in this important activity. Our bingo helps provide the supplementary income that is needed to satisfy the parish's financial obligations. Do consider stopping down to join us. The tasks are easy, and every helping hand is appreciated.

PRAYER TO END ABORTION

*Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life
and for the life of my brothers and sisters.
Nothing destroys more life than abortion.
Yet I rejoice that you conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.
Today I commit myself never to be silent,
never to be passive,
never to be forgetful of the unborn.
I commit myself never to stop defending life
until all my brothers and sisters are protected
and our nation once again becomes
a nation with liberty and justice,
not just for some, but for all.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

CHOOSE LIFE!...The following blog by Michael in Illinois is posted on the March for Life 2019 website. His story here is condensed. The words are all his.

About two years ago, my wife told me that she was pregnant. With the four kids growing up, we looked forward to the day when we could spend time together. We were shocked and upset. At the age of 44, I did not want to change diapers and warm bottles again. My wife was heartsick.

We discussed abortion. What an agonizing and painful road to venture. I call Planned Parenthood to get information. Still, we were undecided. Deep down inside we knew we were in conflict, because the moral law written in our hearts knew differently.

A few days later she said she could not have an abortion. We cannot destroy the life of a child for reasons of economics and inconvenience. It is not the baby's fault. We cannot end this pregnancy because it is a burden to us. It is simply wrong. The child has a right to be born. I said ok.

The time came to have the child, a beautiful little girl. As the months went by, I sat with this gorgeous little girl grasping at life. Peeking around the corner of her crib when I am coming up the stairs. Pulling on my pant leg when she wants me to pick her up. A tear running down her cheek when she stumbles when trying to walk.

We cannot help but examine what we had almost done. That fetus is a child. I am now convinced that [abortion] is an evil choice that has been marketed upon society by our politicians and Planned Parenthood. It is not about choice for them; it is about money.

Every time [we] look into the eyes of [our] little girl, we feel a surge of guilt that we had the power to decide if this child lives or not. Neither of us can envision life without her.

Supporters of abortion have wreaked havoc on the emotions of society. Children are so precious and are the shining light of our future. By the grace of God, may we be forgiven for a wrong that we almost committed.



Mass Intentions

Sat. - Jan. 19 - 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Thaddeus A. Irzyk
Req. Ellen Osborn
& Walter J. Jarnot Family

Sun. - Jan. 20 - 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM +August Richter
Req. Nicole Michalski & Family

Mon. - Jan. 21 - St. Agnes

7:30 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Tues. - Jan. 22 - Day of Prayer

7:30 AM Legal Protection of Unborn
Children

Wed. - Jan. 23 - St. Marianne Cope

7:30 AM Recovery from Surgery
Req. Alice Kmiec

Thur. - Jan. 24 - St. Francis de Sales

7:30 AM Return to Health & Sobriety
Req. Gus S.

Fri. - Jan. 25 - Conversion of St. Paul

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

Sat.-Jan. 26 - Sts. Timothy & Titus

7:30 AM +Sophie & +John Pokorski

Sat. - Jan. 26 - 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Jeannette Robida (5th anniv.)
Req. Tobojka Family

Sun. - Jan. 27 - 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM +Irene Lavado (3rd anniv.)
Req. Family

SOLD OUT! Our Spirit of Christmas Festival and the pre-Christmas food sale saw our pierogi supply virtually disappear. The faithful pierogi crew will gather in the church hall kitchen Tuesday morning, the 29th, around 8:15 or so, to make more of our ever-popular cabbage pierogi. All parish pierogi chefs are invited.

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

The anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court's tragic ruling that legalized the mass slaughter of innocents should be a reminder to us that respecting the dignity of **every** person, especially the most vulnerable, goes hand-in-hand with being Catholic. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to stand up to any and all threats to human life.

Not only abortion, but war, euthanasia, and poverty are also threats to human life and are all related. A culture that considers abortion acceptable is a culture unprepared to defend the elderly and the infirm. A government that thwarts the efforts of the poor to climb out of poverty is a government that disregards the horrible human cost of war.



It's a sad reality that many Americans do not recognize the dignity of unborn human life and believe that efforts to protect the unborn "limit the rights" of women. Creating a "culture of life," as St. John Paul II called us to do, will require our Christian witness to address the needs of both mother and child.

A recent statement of our American bishops read: *"To our fellow Catholics, we ask you to do even more for life. Reach out to women who are pregnant and in need of help, to families struggling with financial or emotional difficulties. Stand by those who wish to choose life. Catholic families should be living symbols of our conviction that life is always a gift from God."*

Peace and Blessings,
Father Conrad