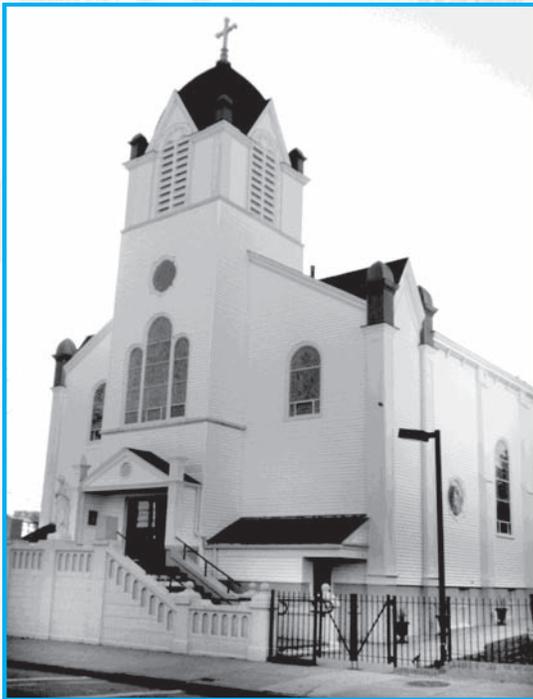


# The Parish Family of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



**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](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.

**DAILY MASS** personifies the three pillars of Lent better than anything else we could consider. **Prayer: It's obvious;** **Fasting:** giving up that extra half-hour of morning sleep; **Almsgiving:** offering *ourselves* at the altar to God as God has given His Son to us, and as Jesus offered Himself on the Cross for us and our salvation. Please think seriously about this.

**A PLENARY INDULGENCE** may be obtained by praying the Stations of the Cross. What a gift God offers us in this indulgence! And for so little effort. Do plan to join us for Stations of the Cross each **Friday of Lent at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.** Mass will follow immediately at 5:30.

**"TO CONFESS OUR SINS AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR"** is the Third Precept (or Commandment) of the Church. *Once a year is the minimum requirement for all Catholics.* The Church encourages us all to receive the graces of this Sacrament at least monthly.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is scheduled here every Saturday throughout the year at 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.—and available anytime by request.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** that had been scheduled for this Tuesday has been postponed. The new date and time for the council to meet is the following Tuesday evening, April 9th, at 6:30, in the parish hall. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**VISITING OUR INFIRM PARISHIONERS** with the Sacraments is something that Father Conrad is delighted to do, whether they are hospitalized, in a nursing or rehab facility, or confined to home.

Because of current federal regulations regarding the privacy of patients, neither medical facilities nor staff are permitted to inform clergy about our parishioners being there.

As a result, Father Conrad relies on family members and asks you to inform him when your loved one is unable to come to church and would appreciate receiving the Sacraments.

**A CAN OF SOUP,** a jar of peanut butter, or a box of cereal added to our weekly grocery list will not put any of us in the poorhouse. But just imagine the positive impact this would have locally in helping address the hunger problem: *52 weeks a year x 1 non-perishable item each week x every OLPH parishioner.*

If every member of our Parish Family would consider adopting this as an easy part of Lenten *almsgiving,* then continue this small act of **kindness through the year,** OLPH's partnership with Catholic Charities and other area parishes in ministry to the hunger poor will make a significant difference in our little corner of the world.

May we count on you?

**ANOTHER SINCERE "THANK YOU"** to the faithful golumbki team who gathered this past week to prepare and package many dozens of our famous stuffed cabbage. God bless them!

**CABBAGE PEIROGI-MAKING TIME** will again be this Tuesday morning, April 2nd. All parish pierogi chefs are asked to please meet in the church kitchen around 8:15-8:30. Our inventory of these popular items is dwindling almost as quickly as it is being replenished. Your helping hands will be much-appreciated. No previous experience is necessary.

**OUR PRE-EASTER FOOD SALE** is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in our parish hall.

**CHOOSE LIFE!...** Jesus is spoken of in the womb (Matthew 1.20-21). The Incarnation is the most compelling Christian justification for the sanctity of unborn human life. At His conception, the human **Christ was not a "potentially human" Christ.**

Those who say that life does not begin at **conception are in direct opposition to the Apostles' Creed.** The early Church affirmed in the Apostles' Creed that the Eternal Son became incarnate in **Mary's womb, "conceived by the Holy Spirit"—not a "blob of tissue," but rather our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

✠ *Mass Intentions*

**Sat. - March 30 - 4th Sunday of Lent**

**4:00 PM** +Michael Willett (4th anniv.)  
Req. Ann Bodzioch Robinson

**Sun. - March 31 - 4th Sunday of Lent**

**10:00 AM** +Charles Salach (anniv.)  
Req. Son & Daughter

**Mon. - April 1 - Lenten**

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

**Tues. - April 2 - Lenten Weekday**

**7:00 AM** +Lucille Furtado  
Req. Andrea St. Germain

**Wed. - April 3 - Lenten Weekday**

**7:30 AM** no Mass today

**Thurs. - April 4 - Lenten Weekday**

**7:30 AM** Special Intention

**Fri. - April 5 - Lenten Weekday**

**5:00 PM** Stations of the Cross  
**5:30 PM** +Victoria Jablonski  
Req. Family

**Sat.- April 6 - Lenten Weekday**

**7:30 AM** +Doris Jablonski  
Req. Maryann Nelson

**Sat. - April 6 - 5th Sunday of Lent**

**4:00 PM** +Florence Goyette  
Req. Ernest Duval

**Sun.- April 7 - 5th Sunday of Lent**

**10:00 AM** +Lydia Maher  
Req. Nicole Michalski & Family

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

We all know the story of the son in today's Gospel parable, who leaves his father's house for a far-away country where he squanders his inheritance on bad living, hits bottom, realizes he was wrong, and is sorry. When he returns to his father to ask forgiveness, his father sees him coming and runs out to meet him with kisses and embraces. He orders a new robe for his son and a big feast.

I love this story, because each of us in our own way is that prodigal son. Sometimes we take our Father's gifts for granted. Sometimes we try to run away from God or to live as if He doesn't exist. This is the reality of sin. And we are all sinners. That's what makes this parable so beautiful. Jesus is telling us that sin does not have to be the last word in our lives.

Jesus--by becoming like us in all things except sin, by dying for us while we were still sinners--revealed the power of God's love and mercy.

And our Father still comes to embrace His prodigal sons and daughters in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation--no matter how big our sins are or how many times we repeat them.

As often as we receive the Sacrament of Confession with a contrite heart, we find our Father ready to forgive us--arms open wide to welcome us home to the Church and the Eucharist.

This is what Lent is all about: reconciliation with God and His Church and a deeper conversion to Christ and His Gospel. Lent is the season of renewal, a time for purification, for rooting out bad habits and making good resolutions. These 40 days remind us that our Christian life is an ongoing call to conversion.

I encourage you to make a good confession before Easter. Don't wait--even if it has been a long time.

Peace and Blessings,  
Father Conrad