## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 3, 2019 – 31st Ordinary Sunday9:30 AMMemorial Mass for our beloved Dead with Wypominki2:00 PMProcession and Prayers for the Dead at the CemeteryMonday, November 4, 2019 – WeekdayTuesday, November 5, 2019 – Weekday – Election DayWednesday, November 6, 2019 – WeekdayThursday, November 7, 2019 – WeekdayFriday, November 8, 2019 – WeekdaySaturday, November 9, 2019 – WeekdaySunday, November 10, 2019 – 32nd Ordinary Sunday9:30 AMHoly Mass† Anna Grodek – requested by Bill Quilty

# **SPECIAL PARISH MEETING** Sunday, December 1, 2019

Masses at Our Saviour Parish, Lawrenceville, NJ starting from November 3, 2019 will be on Sundays at 12:00 Noon

#### FAITH SHARING

The common theme of today's readings is the benevolent, compassionate and forgiving mercy of God for sinners and the response of repentance and conversion expected from us.

The first reading reminds us that God's Almighty Power includes His strength to be merciful. That is why God, who created the universe mercifully, waits for sinners to repent. God continues to love us, even when we do not love Him in return. The reading focuses on the love God has for all He has created, the love that overlooks sin so that we all have time for repentance. God shows us His redemptive love through His mercy.

In the second reading, St. Paul encourages the Thessalonians to persevere in their Christian Faith, giving glory to God, without idly waiting for the "second coming" of Christ in their lifetime. He advises them to continue to live a good Christian life every day, allowing God to work in their lives so that they may be worthy of their vocation as Christians.



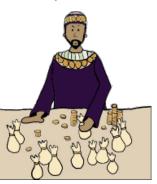
Today's Gospel presents the story of the instantaneous conversion of the tax-collector, Zacchaeus. God's grace led him to a moment of conversion. The account describes how Jesus recognized Zacchaeus for exactly what he was, a lost sinner in need of a Savior, and how God's grace worked in Zacchaeus to lead him from idle curiosity to repentance, conversion and restitution. The episode emphasizes the fact that such a conversion can only result from a person's fully receiving the love, acceptance and grace offered to

everyone one by a merciful Lord.

#### THE TAX AND TAX-COLLECTORS

Jericho was a very wealthy, commercial town in the Jordan valley, famous for its date palms and balsam groves. There were two major highways in Israel at that time, and one of them went through Jericho. Hence, Jericho was one of the great tax centers of Palestine and its tax-collectors were rich and notorious. Zacchaeus, as chief tax-collector in Jericho (roughly equivalent to a district director of the U. S. Internal Revenue Service, the IRS), was probably a man of much wealth and few friends. From the time of Julius Caesar, the options for collecting Rome's taxes were auctioned off to the highest bidder in each municipality. In order to win the bid, the prospective tax collector would have had to pay to Rome, in advance, all the taxes due in his locale. Then, he would hire agents who would help in collecting the taxes so that he could recoup his initial investment, pay his agents and make a generous profit as well. He cheated not only on his return, but

everyone else's. He had figured out a way to skim some money off the top and squeeze the last drop from peoples' wallets. Moreover, being a boss himself, no doubt Zacchaeus also took a little off the top from each of his tax-collectors. Because the tax collectors extorted sizable amounts of interest in addition to the taxes fixed by Rome, they were despised by their own townspeople. Since Zacchaeus had reached the top of his profession, he was the most hated man in the district, considered by the other Jews as a traitor, a thief and an outcast.







2019 SPECIAL SYNOD OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

On Friday, October 25, 2019, delegates to Special Synod of the PNCC elected the new bishop. Very Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko, pastor of the Holy Trinity Parish in Kewanee, IL (Western Diocese) has been chosen as the new bishop for the Polish National Catholic Church. Thanks be to Holy Spirit for good inspiration! Congratulations to Bishop-Elect!

## BLESSING OF CHILDREN BY PRIME BISHOP ANTHONY MIKOVSKY AT ST. VALENTINE'S ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019



On the Second Sunday of Advent, **December 8, 2019**, we will be blessed with a visit from the Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky, the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church. He will be the celebrant and homilist for **Holy Mass at 9:30 AM**. This is just a curtesy visit. Our chairman, Bill Quilty, invited Prime Bishop to our parish and Bishop Mikovsky answered with joy to this invitation. Our Primate will give his special Apostolic Blessing to all children from our parish. Please mark your calendar and spread the word.

### VANDALISM AT ST. VALENTINE'S HAPPENED AGAIN

In June somebody broke the sacristy window. Janusz helped again and replaced the broken glass and fixed the frame. Thank you, Janusz.

Last week a group of young hooligans had an outdoor night party on our church hall steps. After drinking all alcohol they had they decided to open the drain pipe on the sidewalk and stuffed it with empty cans and bottles.

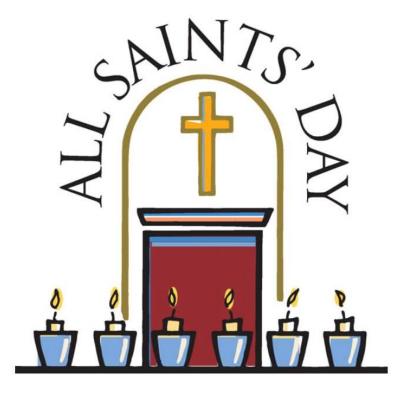
After the next rain our boiler room and church hall basement was full of water. It took me two days to clean it out and the bill for the plumbing work costs us \$200.00 after charity discount. We need to install the surveillance cameras on Melrose St. side. Recently our neighborhood became very unfriendly.

## OUR SAVIOUR PARISH TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Our Saviour Parish, Lawrenceville invitees for their traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November  $10^{\text{th}}$  in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 PM. TICKETS: Adults = \$12.00, Children (Under 12) = \$3.00

# **ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH**

Polish National Catholic Church 2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 535-4978 www.stvalentinespncc.org, stvalentinespncc@gmail.com Sunday Mass: 9:30 AM (English)



31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 31 Niedziela Zwykła

All Saints Day / All Souls Day

November 3, 2019