

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 28, 2016

SINCE 1926 **HOLY CROSS CHURCH** PNCC 90 Years of service

220 Browertown Road

Woodland Park, New Jersey 07424

Phone: 973-256-4888

201-247-4832 (cell) Web Site:

[www.holycrosssite.org](http://www.holycrosssite.org)

E-mail [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com)

**The Reverend Father Joseph R. Cyman, Pastor**

**Deacon David Gaydos / Deacon William Gaydos**

### SUNDAY MASSES

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

WEEKDAY MASSES 8:30 am (check bulletin) / Thursday – 7:15 pm

*"Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray" Luke 9:28*

### Introduction

Today's readings remind us that we live with the "burden" of choice. God is a patient, loving God who hears the cries and suffering of his people. Mercy is available to all. And yet, we have the freedom to act; and our actions have consequences that sometimes bring pain and suffering to ourselves or others. We may have unleashed suffering that we can't reverse. But we are offered the gifts of repentance and mercy. They are freely given, but we must choose to accept and embrace them.



### Today's Scriptures

Deut 26:4-10 Moses calls the people to remember their history.

Psalms 91 Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Rom 10:8-13 All who believe in Christ will be saved.

Luke 4:1-13 Jesus is tempted in the desert.



### LECTORS SERVING TODAY

9:00 AM – George O'Brien

11:00 AM – Angela Gulla

**SHOPPING CERTIFICATES. WE RECEIVED \$1,000 from Shopping Certificates for a TOTAL of \$63,000! We thank Lucy Daum and Merry Sleece for organizing and running this project.** The easiest way to support our Building Fund is by purchasing weekly shopping gift cards. The Building Fund is needed to finance any future repairs and maintenance of our facility. **We thank all those who participate and who run this wonderful project.** Gift cards are available for STOP N SHOP, FOODTOWN AND SHOP RITE.

Please encourage other members of the parish and friends to join in this wonderful project. If you have any questions contact Lucy Daum (973) 694-9457, or Merry Sleece 973-731-3611. **WE THANK YOU IN**

**ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

**I remember you in my prayers each day. Please keep me and my family in your daily prayers. Fr. Joseph**

The following members of our parish community are in need of our prayers, cards and other signs of Christian support: Mary Margo, Emila Bargiel, Jean Tierney, Sophie Barnes, Gene Kapchonick, Liz Wozney, Rose Gentile, Linda Brady, Ann Obsuth, Roy Zebrowski, Jo Ann Murphy, Nicky Minson, Stanley Mikolajczyk, Zachary Decker, Declan, Urbano, Helen Blum, Char O'Neill, Annie Lee, Danielle Geeza, Theresa Petrusky, Janice Krasulja, Jaclyn Monro . We pray also

for all those who asked us to pray and for those whom we promised to pray: Hail Mary, Glory...



**HOSPITAL VISIT.** "Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord..." (James 5:14). If you or a member of your family are ill and would like to receive the Holy Communion at home or at the hospital, please notify the rectory.


**HEALING MASS** – The next Mass will be celebrated on **Thursdays** at 7:15 p.m. You are invited to attend this special Mass if you have any health problems or you wish to present prayers for other people. The Lord always listens to our prayer and has the power of healing.

[Holy Cross Church Face Book – link](#)     [www.holycrosswoodlandpark.com](http://www.holycrosswoodlandpark.com)

Visiting our website [Blog holycrosssite.org](http://Blog.holycrosssite.org) you can go directly to our church face book. 189 people like our church face book!  
We thank Lynn Imperiale for her dedication in updating our face book.


**2016 BULLETIN ADS - \$100 per year – THANK YOU**


**BUSINESS ADVERTISING** – We thank businesses that gave donations for bulletin ads and thus helping us to defray the cost of bulletin printing. The donation for one year is \$100.00. If you wish to submit your ad, please contact church parish office at 973-256-4888 or send e-mail [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com), thank you. **Parishioners and friends, please support the following businesses that give financial contributions to our church.**

 **FESTA MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**  
Robert P. Festa, President N.J. Lic. No. 2502  
Robert P. Festa, Jr., Manager N.J. Lic. No. 4097  
111 Union Boulevard     Phone: 973-790-8686  
Totowa, NJ 07512     Fax: 973-790-6174  
[www.festamemorial.com](http://www.festamemorial.com)

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377 Union Blvd  
Totowa, NJ 07512  
973-942-3777  
973-942-0244



  
**GAITA MEMORIAL HOME**  
Carmen Gaita Jr., Manager  
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**CENTURY 21 GEMINI**  
197 Berdan Ave  
Wayne NJ 07470  
973-696-1111  
[c21lourie1@aol.com](mailto:c21lourie1@aol.com)  
  
**LOURIE IUDICI**  
REALTOR/SHORT SALE SPECIALIST  
CELL: 973-417-2211

  
**Santangelo**  
**Funeral Home**  
635 McBride Avenue  
Woodland Park, New Jersey 07424  
(973) 345-2500  
Emily A. Santangelo, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4778



**Jose Lopez**  
Service Advisor

Professional Automotive Center

101 Straight St & 12th Ave  
Paterson, NJ 07501



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N.J. Lic. No. 3917

[www.bizub.com](http://www.bizub.com)

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 28, 2016

"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future." Luke 13:8-99



**9:00 am** Holy Mass +Mary, Frank, Stanley Grace, Edith, Ludwig Piontkowski, Helen and John Anderson, John Dziuba, George Kapchonick, Elizabeth, Oscar and John Daum, Margaret and Warren Preisser, Elizabeth Sadler, Theodor Jarnutkowski, Julie and Sam Colletti; Offered by Gene Kapchonick (All Souls)

10:00 am – Coffee Time Fellowship

10:00 am – 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting

10:10 am – School of Christian Living Classes

**11:00 am** – Holy Mass for All Parishioners



**Monday February 29, 2016 – Lent – St Hilarius of Rome, Bp.**

8:30 am - Holy Mass

**Tuesday March 1, 2016 – Lent**

8:30 am - Holy Mass for peace in the world

**Wednesday, March 2, 2016 – Lent**

8:30 am - Holy Mass

6:15 pm – Preparation for Baptism

7:15 pm – Bible Study

**Thursday March 3, 2016 – Lent**

7:15 pm - Holy Mass for the sick and home-bound (Healing Mass)

**Friday March 4, 2016 – Lent - St. Casimir, K., C.**

8:30 am - Holy Mass for Benefactors of the Holy Cross Church

**7:15 PM – STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 6, 2016

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son." Luke 15:21



**9:00 am** Holy Mass +Todd and Helen Jaxon, Michael and Estelle Gemza, May and Lou Delvecchio, Joseph and Ann Hartman; Offered by Penni Lazor (All Souls)

10:00 am – Coffee Time Fellowship

10:00 am – Adoration Society meeting

10:10 am – School of Christian Living Classes

**11:00 am** – Holy Mass for Stanley Hudzik, Ruth Hudzik; Offered by Diane M. Bishop



(All Souls)

**After Mass – Confirmation Class**

**Sanctuary Candle Adoration Society** is sponsoring sanctuary candles that are lit for a week in memory/honor of your special intentions for \$10. Please sign up on the list in the church vestibule, use special envelopes and make your check out to Adoration Society. You can send donation by mail. Thank you for your donations.

Week of February 28 – **Emanuele Triggiano** - Offered by Claire Centrella

Week of March 6, 2016 – **Stephen Morgan and Barbara Morgan** – offered by Stephen and Karen

#### PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY

**Julia (Slysz) Sarnecky, 86**, of E. Rutherford, passed away on February 18, 2016. Born in Wallington she lived there before moving to East Rutherford in 1962. Julia was a Registered Nurse at Passaic General Hospital, Passaic, for 28 years, retiring in 1980. Beloved wife of the late John Richard Sarnecky who passed away in 1982. OUR SYMPATHY TO daughter Deacon Diane Bielski and her husband Dan of Fraser, Colorado, Susan Czerniak and her husband Robert of E. Rutherford, Karen Serwin and her husband Roland of Pt. Pleasant, and Edith Sarnecki of Parsippany; 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. **Julia was a twin sister of the late Very Rev. Sr. John**



**A. Slysz (Pastor of Holy Cross Church 1957-1977)** who passed away in 1997 and the late Sophie Pastula.

The funeral Mass was held on Monday, February 22, 2016. **Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.**

**Thank you for donations to Holy Cross Church in memory of Julie Sarnecky:** Deacon Diane Bielski and Family - \$100; Eva & Bill Chaleff - \$50; Marilyn DeRussy - \$25; Alice & Ed Verrastrro - \$25; Luanne & Roger Shafer - \$25; and Cynthia & Frank Patula, Jr. - \$50;



**THANK YOU TO:**

- Dominick Bucci, who helped to change burned bulbs in the choir loft, prepared bids for the new cross on the bell tower and developed plans to repair leaking roof on the bell tower.
- Renata Cyman, who changed the altar linens to purple color for Lent and decorated hall for St. Valentine's Luncheon.
- Penni Lazor, who cleaned altar linens and with Renata Cyman cleaned the storage room in the parish hall.
- George Febricatore, who changed locks on outside security cage air condition units.
- Parish Committee members for attending meetings and making important decisions for the parish.
- Claire Centrella for help in the parish office.
- Sunday School teachers for providing lessons for the children.



**ALTAR SERVERS**

We would like to continue the process of bringing on more altar servers at our Masses. We thank those who served in the past weeks.

Please sign-up on the sheet in the Parish Hall. Parents, please put your child's name in the Sunday that they can serve. You will be notified as a reminder prior to their Sunday Mass.

**Please join us for STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAY in LENT at 7:15 pm March 4, 11, 18, and Good Friday March 25, 2016 at 3**



**pm. Stations of the Cross** also called the Via Dolorosa or Way of Sorrows, or simply, The Way; refers to a series of artistic representations, often sculptural, depicting Christ carrying the Cross to His crucifixion. Most Catholic churches contain Stations of the Cross, typically placed at intervals along the side walls of the nave. The tradition of moving around the Stations to commemorate the Passion of Christ began with St. Francis of Assisi and extended throughout the Catholic Church in the medieval period. It is also observed in other Christian Churches. It is most commonly done during Lent, especially on Good Friday.

**School of Christian Living Classes**



Please join us by enrolling your child in this free of charge program.

Level I - Pre-school – Kindergarten – 2nd grade – Nayef Kiame

Level II – 3rd and 4th grades – Mrs. Claire Centrella / Andrea Lerggios-Smith

Level III - 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades – Mrs. Donna Maher

**NATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION** - Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive – Manchester,

Date - 25 Jul 2016 until 29 Jul 2016.



**GIFT SHOP OF RELIGIOUS ARTICLES –**

**WE THANK THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT.**

There are new religious articles (donated) available in the parish hall for purchase at the much discounted price. They are perfect for weddings, baptisms, communions, confirmations, and other special days. **Come and Browse.**



**HOLY CROSS PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** - Do you crochet or knit? Then join us in this new ministry by helping make shawls for home bound, persons in need of our prayers, people dealing with illnesses. We can make a difference by comforting them in their time of need by presenting them with a handmade shawl and special prayers for our blessed shawl. May God's grace be upon this shawl... Warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May this mantle be a safe haven....a sacred place of security and well being... May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace. And wrapped in love! Blessed Be!!! Great gift for the Caregiver as well! And if you know of anyone in need please contact Claire Centrella. We have patterns for your crocheting and/or knitting. We thank the ladies who donated prayer shawls. We have given out already 12 shawls to those in need. There is yarn available in the parish hall for those who would like to make a shawl. We thank all the ladies who made the shawls.



**90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Cross Church - June 26, 2016.**

**Solemn Mass at 11:00 am presided by Bp. Bernard Nowicki**

**Reception at The Brownstone, Paterson NJ at 1:00 pm - Please mark your calendars.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES:** The preparation for first Holy Communion will begin on Sunday, **Mar. 13, April 3, 17, May 1, 2016. May 13<sup>th</sup> will be rehearsal and Confession at 7:00pm.**



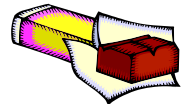
**Parents meeting will be held on April 3, 2016 after 11:00am Mass.**

It is held on Sundays, after the 11 AM Mass. Children who are enrolled at second grade and older are eligible to take classes. The Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ who is really present under the forms of bread and wine. In the Eucharist, Jesus Christ gives us Himself as a food for our souls. The bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of our Lord during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when the priest says words of consecration which Jesus used during the Last Supper: This is My Body... This is My Blood. (Catechism) **Celebration of First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 11:00am Mass.**



**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** Upcoming classes: **March 6, 20, April 10, 24, May 22, 2016.** Students who are 13 years old and older as well as adults are eligible to take confirmation lessons. Sacrament of Confirmation is a completion of the sacrament of Baptism and important step in your youth's religious education. The date of Confirmation – fall 2016.

**4th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER – World's Finest Chocolate. TO DATE: \$1,488.00**



**WE THANK THOSE WHO SELL OUR CHOCOLATES AND WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT. THANK YOU.☺**

We are selling World's Finest Chocolate candy bars and hope you will help. Bring a box to work, sell to family and friends or just keep a box for your own snacking. At \$1.00 per bar and a coupon for Quiznos on the back of the wrapper, it is a wonderful deal. Pick up your boxes at the Church Hall and return money when you will sell as soon as you can. **Such an easy way to help your parish raise funds!**

**We thank anyone who in any way, shape or form serves for the betterment of our parish. May the Lord reward you for sharing your time, talent and treasure.**



**Be a Good Steward**

**LET US IMITATE THE WAYS OF GOD BY BEING MORE GENEROUS AND LOVING IN OUR SERVICE TO HIS MYSTICAL BODY, "THE CHURCH."**

**Thank you for your anticipated support toward our parish.**

Help Holy Cross to raise more \$. There are 171 Supporters registered so far. So please join us and you can imagine how much we can earn for our church!

**Good Search**

When you do your Shopping online please take advantage of GoodShop, GoodSurvey, Goodtvads, GoodOffers or GoodDining and the church will get a percentage of your purchase. We will get 1 cent for every search and it adds up quickly. To date we raised \$90.71. The link is:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/holy-cross-church-woodland-park.aspx>. You can copy this link or mark it and open it as a Hyperlink. **YOU CAN EVEN EARN \$ PLAYING GAMES, DOING SURVEYS, AND DINING OUT.**

### UPCOMING DATES

March 13, 2016 – **St. Patrick's Dinner** after 11 am Mass

March 13, 2016 - **Adoration Society Agape** in Dunellen, NJ

March 13, 2016 – **Melissa A. Centrella Scholarship FDN. Casino Night – The Brownstone**

March 20, 2016 – **Palm Sunday**

March 27, 2016 – **Easter Sunday**

April 3, 2016 – **Easter Egg Hunt & Party** for School of Christian Living (SOCL)

May 1, 2016 – **Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

May 7, 2016 (Saturday) – **NY/NJ Central Diocese Adoration Society Convention** at Transfiguration of our Lord Parish, Wallington, NJ

May 8, 2016 - **Mother's Day Breakfast** at 10 am

June 12, 2016 – **SOCL attendance awards and Parish Picnic**

June 19, 2016 – **Father's Day breakfast** at 10 am

June 26, 2016 at 11 am – **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Cross Church**, dinner following at the Brownstone, Paterson, NJ  
(ONE MASS THAT SUNDAY)



**ALTAR SERVERS** This is an important ministry for our parish and your support and involvement is needed! Please contact Deacon - William Gaydos 973-239-4725 or parish office 973-256-488 if your son /daughter are interested in becoming altar servers.



**IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO DOES NOT BELONG TO A CHURCH OR WHO DOES NOT ATTEND MASS, WHY NOT INVITE HIM OR HER TO JOIN US IN WORSHIP AT HOLY CROSS PARISH? ALL ARE CORDIALLY WELCOMED.**

**THANK YOU! Winter Coat Drive – ALL ITEMS WERE DELIVERED TO FR. ENGLISH FOOD PANTRY, 435 MAIN ST. PATERSON, NJ**



**THERE WERE SEVEN LARGE BAGS OF DONATIONS ASSEMBLED IN THE PARISH HALL.** Thank you for caring about those less fortunate. We fulfill our Lord's command, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

**NOTE FROM PASTOR: LENT - SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**



Bible Study classes are held during Lent on Wednesday March 2, 9, 16, 2016 at 7:15 pm. The classes will include Scripture readings, discussions and, occasionally, film reviews. This is a wonderful way to renew our spiritual life during Advent. Interested, please sign up in the parish hall or call 973-256-4888 / or 201-247-4832 (cell). Fr. Joseph.



**THE PRAYERS REQUEST** - The container "Prayer Request"

is located at the side altar by the baptismal font. Fr. Joseph says the Holy Mass on Thursdays for the sick and shut-ins. If you have any sick members in your family and/or homebound, please write their names and place them in the container. Fr. Joseph will include these intentions at the Holy Mass on Thursday evening Mass.



**MELISSA A. CENTRELLA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION** -The Board of Directors of the Melissa A. Centrella Scholarship Foundation invite you to attend thirteenth annual fundraiser CASINO NIGHT, Blackjack, Craps, Poker, Roulette & Big Six,



Professional Dealers, Open Bar, Buffet Dinner. Chips will be converted into raffle tickets for fabulous prizes. Help them raise money for scholarships for 2016! They have awarded 130 scholarships to-date! Sunday, March 13, 2016, 5:30 p.m. at the Brownstone 351 West Broadway, Paterson, NJ. Tickets: \$75.00 (Includes a \$50 initial set of chips). Open bar all evening. All profits will go to the Scholarship Foundation. Please RSVP by March 1, 2016 to: Claire Centrella MAC Scholarship Foundation 120 Quarry Dr., Clifton, N.J. 07013 [www.macscholarship.org](http://www.macscholarship.org) Call at 201- 572-1299 for more information.

**HALL RENTAL HOLY CROSS CHURCH**



Fees: For non-members of the parish: The hall rental fee for the use of the facilities is \$110.00 for each hour of rental time. For members of the parish (paid membership). The rental hall fee for the use of facilities is \$55 fee for each hour of rental time. Call 973-256-4888. / 201-247-4832 (cell) email [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com)

**ST. PATRICK'S DINNER & FATHER & CHILD'S BAKE CONTEST – SEE SIGN UP IN THE HALL**



(WITH PARENTS HELP) SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2016 AFTER 11:00. MASS. MENU: *CORNED BEEF, CABBAGE, IRISH RED POTATOES, BAKED CHICKEN - VARIETY OF VEGETABLES, ASSORTED BREADS / IRISH SODA BREAD, IRISH COFFEE /TEA, HOMEMADE DESSERTS.* FOR THAT DINNER WE NEED 3 VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016 BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M. AND 3-4 PEOPLE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016 AFTER 9:00 A.M. MASS. WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS – ESPECIALLY THE YOUTH - TO SERVE THE DINNER. TAKE OUTS WILL BE

AVAILABLE. ORDER TAKE OUTS WHEN PURCHASING TICKETS. TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER MASSES. Adults \$15 - Children and youth free of charge. THE CHILDREN WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE BAKE CONTEST WITH PARENTS ARE ASKED TO SIGN UP ON THE SIGN UP LIST IN THE PARISH HALL. Please purchase tickets by Tuesday March 8, 2016. You may send donations by mail. If you have any questions call 973-256-4888 or e-mail [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com)



**GOD'S FIELD – (Rola Boza) ONLINE** - The latest issue of *God's Field* is now available online at <http://www.pncc.org>.

Click on the God's Field link at the top of the home page and follow the directions to access the recent issue. We hope you enjoy reading about the life and work of our parishes.

**2016 ADULT ENVELOPES.** Thank you for your financial support toward the Holy Cross Church. If you have any questions or need church envelopes please ask Richard Daum, Financial Secretary, 973-694-9457



## 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!

Our dear parishioner, Stella Skawinski celebrated her 100th birthday at Holy Cross Church on Sunday February 21, 2016. Special mass was celebrated in her honor with the attendance of her son, granddaughter and husband, friends and parishioners. During the reception, Father Joseph Cyman expressed thank you for the continued dedication of Stella to Holy Cross Church. She has lived a remarkable life, continuing to drive, going to Mass every Sunday, attending meetings for Adoration Society, and donating her time and talents to the church. Stella is a wonderful inspiration of a positive attitude, laughter and caring for others.



*Thanks to Father Joseph and Deacon Bill for the lovely Mass they said for my mother Stella Skawinski before her 100th birthday party last Sunday. It really touched our hearts.*

*And thanks to all the great folks who helped set up for the party and those who attended this memorable occasion for Stella and our whole family. We appreciate the kind remarks and the memories several of you shared with guests.*

*Stella will never forget how you all made her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday an event to remember and cherish.*

*With gratitude and affection, Larry and Stella Skawinski*

The following was written by her son, Larry Skawinski:

Stella Skawinski is now part of an elite group of senior citizens: she is one of about 72,197 centenarians in the country, and the population of people living into their golden years continues to grow. She has witnessed a lot in her century-long life, which began in the leap year of 1916 in Utica, NY, when Woodrow Wilson was President, the price of a first-class stamp was just two cents, electric refrigerators first went on sale for \$900, hot dogs sold for a nickel and blue plate specials cost 50-75 cents. It was also the year Mr. Peanut was created and those who could afford one, drove model T's. Hybrid cars, cell phones, and the Internet were many decades down the road.

Stella's family left Utica when she was a child to return to their homeland of Poland, where she lived what she has often described as an idyllic life on a farm. But this was not to last, once Hitler came to power. She was lucky: she escaped the

invasion of Poland by the Germans and the ravages of World War 2 because in 1935 when she was 19, she happened to return to the U.S. to visit the country of her birth. She didn't realize then that she would not be returning to her family farm: her parents told her to remain in Paterson with her godmother because of the turmoil underway in Europe. She never saw her parents again. They were sent to concentration camps, their fates unknown.

Stella has lived through so much history: World War I, the Great Depression, World War 2, the Korean War, the Cold War, Vietnam, the war in Afghanistan, 9/11 and currently, the war on terror. And her life spans the presidencies from Wilson to Obama. Think of all the social and cultural changes she has seen from the 1930's through today, including the civil rights movement, women's lib, the sexual revolution, gender lib, gay rights, the technological revolution. Overwhelming! She has gone through many ups and downs in her own life, as many of you know: the passing of a husband and more recently, a daughter. Even her beloved cat, Puss, died not too long ago. But she has never let grief, setbacks, or disappointment defeat her: she has endured through thick and thin because of her indomitable spirit, eternal optimism, faith in humanity, strength of character, generous nature – always doing for others without expecting anything in return – and sense of humor.

It's because of these qualities and other positive traits and talents like gardening (Victory and flower gardens, especially gorgeous roses), cooking (those divine Polish dishes like pierogies and stuffed cabbage), and sewing (she even designed and made clothing, knit, crocheted, and did needlework) that she has enjoyed many close friendships over the years, the affection of her remaining family, and the support of her church and community.