

PolAm

A Publication of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota www.pacim.org

December 2010

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Vol. 32, Num. 12

Freedom Through A Bowl of Soup

Jeszcze Polska nie zgięła is the opening line of the Polish National Anthem. Those words, "Poland is not yet perished," flowed through the hearts and minds of Poles through centuries of invasions, partitions and occupation. While most of the brave Poles who stood athwart aggressors were men, the fuel behind their strength came from women in the kitchen.

Food was a silent resistance for Poles. No oppressive regime suspected that a small uprising was underway each time a pot of soup simmered over a hot fire. Traditional foods of a beloved homeland kept people and a country glued together. Even when no luxuries were available, a Polish soup could be made from water, onion, cabbage, carrot and salt.

In memory of Poland's strong backbone and favorite food, *zupa*, PACIM held its 21st Soup Festival this fall. Fourteen homemade soups and twice as many volunteers were at the core of the 2010 celebration. For a third year it was held in Kolbe Hall at Northeast's Church of the Holy Cross.

Greeting attendees was Tori Piorek, the Twin Cities' reigning Miss Polonia, and Chester Róg, founder and organizer of many Polish American events, including this newsletter. Both were bedecked in full traditional Polish costume, with Pan Róg proudly displaying peacock feathers in his hat (*Krakowiak*) that he bought in Poland decades earlier.



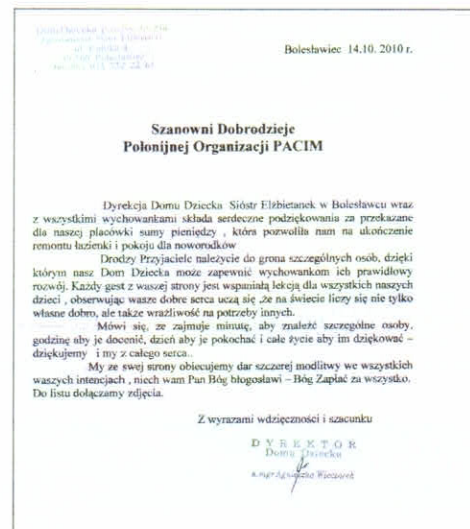
Angela McLaughlin and Nick Skrowaczewski

Clanging pots, pans and ladles in the hall's kitchen seemed to announce the feast. Bustling servers ladled up bowls of Polish history and comfort food: *bigos*, tomato rice, mushroom, cold blueberry, carrot dill, sauerkraut, dill pickle, potato and red *barszcz* soups.

Martha Pachnik, who headed up the soup festival in its early years, still makes her chicken soup (*kurzy rosół*) and provided all the crockpots and roasters to keep the soups warm. "This event is a way to remind people, spoonful by spoonful, of the richness of the old family dishes they might not often make...we don't want to have these traditions go," she added.

Perhaps the most exciting sight at the fest was the influx of the 20 to 30-something age attendees. Whether it was the lure of bottomless bowls of homemade taste for cheap, or the desire to embrace Polish cuisine, the younger set is just what Mrs. Pachnik hoped for — a way to keep the memory of Poland's history and her traditions alive.

Saint Elizabeth's Orphanage in Bolesławiec Says Thank You!!!



"All the children and their patrons are very grateful and express their greatest appreciation for the support and help

Orphanage continues on page 2

Renewal Reminder
Please Check Your Mailing Label
If your expiration date is January 2011, please renew now and help us save time and money by not having to send you a reminder. There are over 300 renewals in January so it helps out a lot!
Send your check made payable to PACIM to: PACIM, PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403.

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Total: _____

Please add \$5 to the above membership levels if you wish to join the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) through PACIM (a 50% discount).

Subscription Note: Due to postal rate increases and since non-profit mail is NOT forwarded but returned postage due please add \$6 to your membership if you travel south each winter. This ensures that you will receive your *Pol-Am* Newsletter by first class mail all year long wherever you may be. Anyone else who wishes to receive their *Pol-Am* by first class mail all year long should add \$6 to their renewals.

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Thoughts

In preparing this month's issue of *Pol-Am*, I came across the following that I think many of you will find most interesting.



For a close up interactive view of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, go to the site listed below.

It allows you to zoom in and out and view the entire chapel by moving

your mouse. It's an awesome way to view Michelangelo's masterpiece (although I think I would prefer to see it in person). http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html.

We're short on space this month, so I will be brief. Please renew now if your expiration date falls in January. I truly appreciate your help in this since it will save me hours of tedious work mailing reminders to the over 300 expiring memberships.

Regards,

Steven H. Ukasick

Steven Ukasick, *Editor*

Orphanage continues

they received this year from PACIM and their members. The sum of over \$3,000 was spent on the renovation of bathroom and toddler's room."

The director of the orphanage, Sister Agnieszka, called this donation an act of great generosity and thinking and caring for others who need help.

"There is an expression that says: it takes a minute to find a noble person, takes a hour to appreciate him, takes a day to love him and it takes the whole life to thank him...so we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The children will keep those who helped in their prayers and God bless you all."

Boleslawiec, October 14th, 2010

Director of the Home
Sister Agnieszka Wieczorek



PolAm

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We appreciate your continued support. Dziękuję!

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Dr. Jarosław Nowak

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Robert Papke

Walter & Renata Remiarz

Chester & Martha Pachnik

Polish Children's Fund Donations

June Malluege \$25

To make a tax deductible donation to the Polish Children's Fund see boxed information to right.

The PACIM Board of Directors thanks all of you who made this gift to the orphanage possible by joining us at our Wigilia Benefit last year and donating to our Polish Children's Fund.

Please join us December 12th at our Wigilia Benefit. This year we will be supporting an orphanage in Skorogoszcz, near Opole, in memory of long time PACIM supporter Donald Paidosh, whose niece was adopted from this orphanage.

To make a tax deductible donation to the Polish Children's Fund, make your check payable to: PACIM Children's Fund and mail to: PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403; or go online to www.pacim.org and click "donate."

News From Poland

by Mietek Konczyk

Poland ranks 41 in the world in the annual **Human Development Index** published by the United Nations. For the first time it has joined the group of "very high human development" nations. The USA ranked 4th following Norway, Australia and New Zealand. The last position, 169, is held by Zimbabwe.

Poland and Russia signed the long-awaited intergovernmental agreement regulating supplies of natural gas from Russia.

An attacker shot and killed one man and stabbed another after storming into the opposition **Law and Justice** (PiS) party's regional headquarters in Łódź, central Poland. This politically motivated murder has shaken the political scene in Poland. **President Bronisław Komorowski** held a series of meetings with party and caucus leaders discussing how to decrease the level of aggression in Polish politics.

Poland improved its position on the **Transparency International** ranking of perceived corruption and is the world's 41st least corrupt country.

33 people were arrested and at least one police officer was wounded as far right-wing organizations and their anti-fascist opponents took to the streets on Poland's **Independence Day**, November 11.

Poland's workers spent 5.5 % of work days on **sick leave** in 2009, which is the highest figure in Europe.

Thousands of Poles lit candles at a new monument to **late President Lech Kaczyński**, and other victims of the Smoleńsk plane crash, in the Powązki military cemetery in Warsaw on November 1, which is celebrated in Poland as All Saints' Day.

Russian musician Yulianna Avdeeva (25) has won the **16th International Chopin Piano Competition** in Warsaw, but this verdict sparked a lot of controversy among critics, audience and the Polish media.

Workers in Poland finished erecting the **world's tallest statue of Jesus**, a 170-foot giant

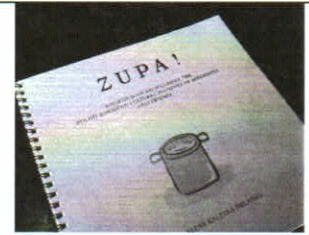


that towers over the countryside near Swiebodzin. The plaster and fiberglass statue surpasses the 130-foot high Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Polish composer **Henryk Mikolaj Górecki**, famous for his "Symphony of Sorrowful Songs," died on November 12 following a serious illness. He was 76.

Update on the Holy Cross Merger

In a Decree dated November 15, 2010, Archbishop Nienstedt made official the merger of four parishes: Holy Cross, St. Clement's, St. Hedwig and St. Anthony of Padua, effective July 1, 2013. The new parish will be called "The Church of the Holy Cross in Minneapolis." All assets, debts, buildings and decisions about them will be made by the combined merged community.



Zupa! One of the easiest ways to pass along one's Polish heritage to the next generation is through cooking, and Polish soups are a major part of this culinary heritage. Over the past 21 years, so many people have requested recipes for the soups served at the Soup Fest that we put together our cook book, *Zupa! Favorite Soup Recipes from the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota & Friends.*

The newly updated 3rd edition of *Zupa!* contains 54 Polish soup recipes that have been served at our Polish Soup Festival, as well as recipes for 12 accompaniments including dumplings, uszki and pierogi.

To order your copy, please send \$15 (\$10 for additional copies) made payable to PACIM to:

Zupa!
c/o 5317 Bryant Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1201



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By the Light of the First Star

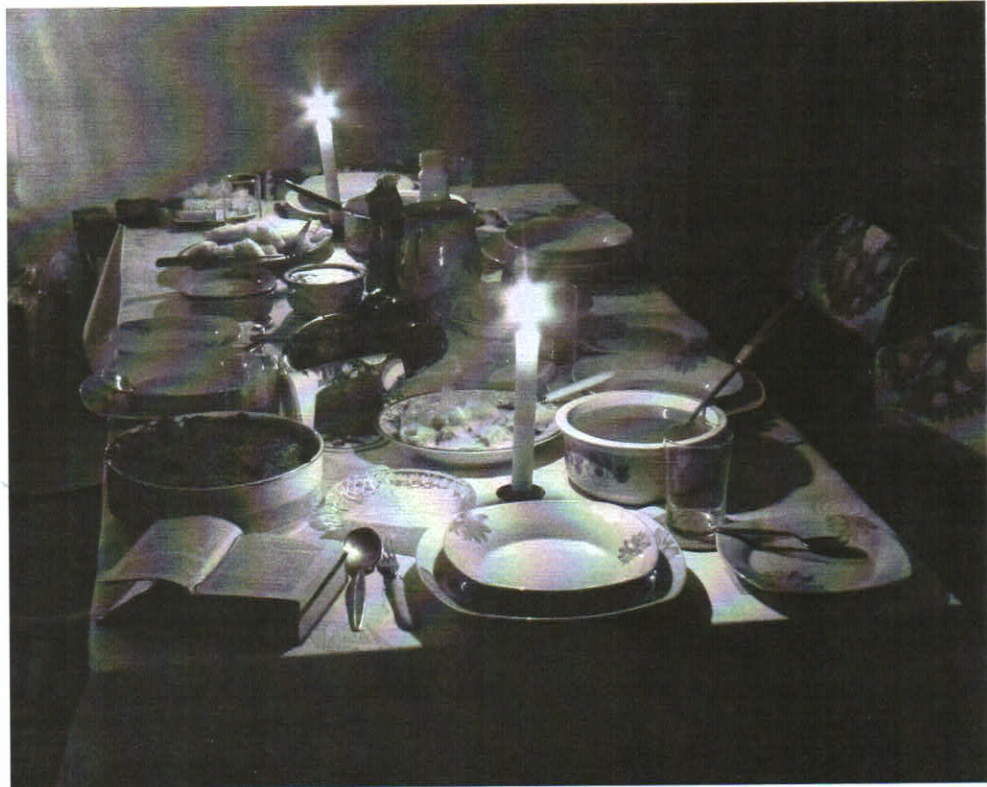
By Jane Mrazek Flanders

Beata's little nose presses against the cold window. Warm breath fogs the glass and she pulls back to draw a happy face with her finger. Almost losing track of her important task, she erases her artwork and looks up into the evening sky for the first star. It is Christmas Eve and my Polish American family is ready to begin the solemn feast, *Wigilia*.

Like many second and third generation Poles in America, I know the customs of *Wigilia*. Each year I "keep the faith" by following well-known traditions - for love of my heritage, and to keep alive memories of my mother, father and older brother. I work hard to maintain elements of a "Polish home" while raising four children in a very American society. It is like a salmon swimming upstream, standing against the early onset of "holiday extravaganza"; but as my husband and his family now embrace my insistence of a proper *Wigilia*, I pray my children will too. But we have a long way to go.

Preparing for *Wigilia* takes weeks. The Polish women of simpler times cleaned the house (superstitious that a dirty house meant it would be that way all year!), soured the *kwas* for *barszcz*, baked gingerbread (*piernik*), fasted, and prayed through Advent. I do the modern American tasks of gift shopping, card writing and attending holiday parties, but my heart prepares for *Wigilia* when I honor my roots and create space for the birth of Christ.

With the help of an older brother, Beata spots the star and we gather at the table.



The room is candlelit. The brightness of the white lace tablecloth and the gold trim on the plates add to the glow. We grow quiet. My husband reads scripture foretelling the birth of Christ and prays. His deep voice rumbles. I am grateful for his conversion to my faith and acceptance of my Polish traditions.

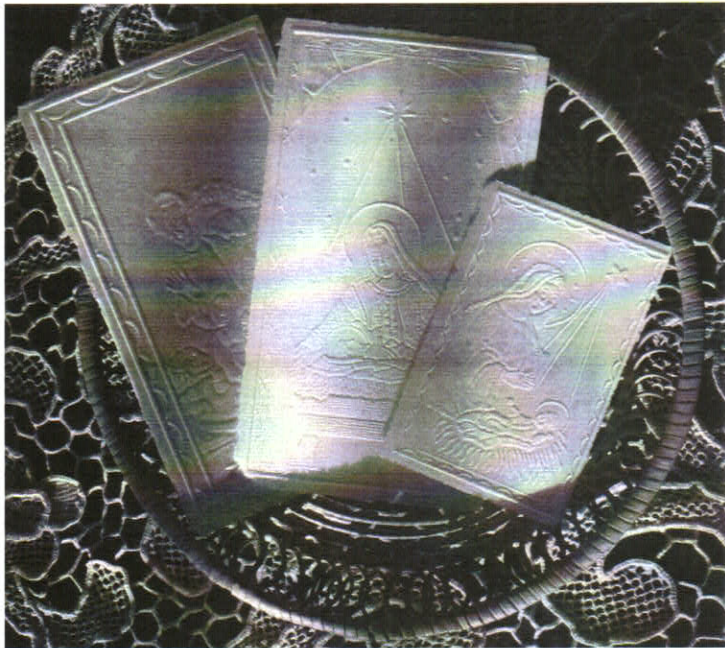
We break the *oplatek*. My in-laws really like *oplatek* — eyes tear up, hugs grow tighter. No resolutions or earth-shattering apologies are made, but soft words of love, admiration and best wishes whisper about. Beata is fascinated by *oplatek*. It is like doing what big people do in mass

every Sunday. She tries not to wince when the flimsy chip of wafer hits her tongue. Tasting more like paper than bread, it is a precursor of the unfamiliar tastes in *Wigilia*.

Most American children would not choose tonight's menu. Sour and fishy are the main themes. Add the "smelly stuff," like sauerkraut and beans, and the meal is underway. Even dessert is suspect with the crunch of black poppyseeds. I know that before bed even my teenage sons will need a heavy snack to compensate for pickiness during the feast. At least all are gracious and keep terms like "icky," "yucky," and "gross" at

bay. They are doing me and Poland a favor. In fact, each pretends they like this important meal.

After dinner we gather around the upright grand piano. Replacing *kolędy* is a concert from nine year old Peter and his “Level 2 Basic Piano” book. Wrong notes and start-overs do not interfere with Pop’s deep base joyfully singing harmony, even when he is louder than Pete’s plunking. Shooting me a wink, Peter begins



playing “*Dzisiaj w Betlejem*,” the one bit of *kolędy* he memorized. We all know the melody since I have been playing it and other familiar Polish songs while cooking and cleaning all day. It is my way to compete with Bing Crosby and the Carpenters, who have been singing carols on the radio since Veterans Day. To me, *kolędy* are almost sacred.

The Christmas tree (*choinka*) and warm fire beckon us to the next room. We flop on couches and the floor, soaking up the moment. Grown-ups sip ice cold and sweet honey liqueur (*krupnik*). Kids cradle cups of cocoa. Beata’s face shines

pink from the tree lights nearest her. The tree’s colored and white lights reflect compromises: yes, the tree went up weeks before and has rainbow lights; but the white lights are reminiscent of candles which once adorned trees in Poland.

Space on the Christmas tree is not a compromise, but a battle for territory bravely fought by both sides. My winning strategy is to admit small defeat by allowing Peter and Beata to decorate with their

favorites. The bottom third of the tree gets covered with school-made ornaments bearing pictures of toothless grins, popsicle-stick stars and anything pink. Meanwhile, I unwrap mouth blown and hand decorated glass ornaments (*bombki*) from Poland. Mushrooms (*grzby*) and birds (*ptaki*) get hung out of reach of small inquisitive hands and the naughty family dog.

Before bed, the kids search the tree for our Polish pickle ornament, a legendary symbol of good luck. The finder opens the first gift in the morning, and I hope receives a special blessing. The delicate, sparkling green glass pickle came from Varsovia in Poland. I yearly pray it will not get crushed by overly eager kids.

Beata’s deep yawn announces bedtime. She checks her fluffy pink stocking. Yep, still empty, but she is hopeful that Santa will fill it while she sleeps. Peter finishes his note for Santa and puts it by the plate of cookies. As in Poland, St. Nicholas already brought a few coins for the chil-

dren’s shoes out on the porch earlier in the month. Tonight they are hoping for a big score.

After a tuck-in and kiss, Peter asks if he can stay up until midnight. He knows the answer, but tries anyway. He wants to have a conversation with our family dog and his fish, and knows it can only hap-



pen tonight. I remind him that Santa will not visit the homes of children who are not asleep. Sometimes a bit of modern Americana comes in handy.

Back downstairs everyone is fading. After hugs all around, my in-laws go down to their bed on the lower level. The big boys turn on “It’s A Wonderful Life” — they are not worried about being awake when Santa comes. My husband and I sit on the couch for a quiet kiss. Neither one of us has the strength to go to midnight mass (*Pasterka*). I go to the closet and reach high for stocking stuffers. My husband eats the cookies on the plate.

On my way upstairs I blow out the candle in the window. No stranger came to share *Wigilia* with us this year, but I know our hearts are ready to welcome the God-child in the morning.

News

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent limited by law. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

The Board of Directors of PACIM holds their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Institute: 2514 Central Ave NE. All are invited.

Przystawia Polskie

Skąpy dwa razy traci
The miser loses twice.

Kalendarz

DEC 12	Wigilia Benefit
DEC 29	Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann Book Reading
JAN 15	Kulig
FEB 12	Bal Karnawałowy

PACIM Library

PACIM Library
2514 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Hours: Sundays from 1 to 3:30 PM
or by appointment

The Library will be closed December 26. Any books coming due during this period may be returned on January 2.

Thanks Thanks to Paul Dziemiela, Fr. Ed Wojtowicz, Elizabeth Baumgartner and the Janeczko Family for their donations to the Library. We are so grateful for donations received during the year. Our collection now numbers 5,045.

Wigilia Join PACIM for a community dinner featuring the foods and activities of a Polish Christmas Eve on December 12 at 6 pm (traditional time of the first star) at Gasthof Restaurant, 2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis. Tickets are \$35 (\$5 tax-deductible).

To reserve a space, send a check made payable to PACIM-PDD to

Bernard Korsak, 5823 Xerxes Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55410. Be sure to include the names of the people in your party, seating requirements, and your phone number if you wish him to confirm receipt of your check. Space is limited. NOTE: Reservation deadline is December 6. Today, probably, by the time you read this. No tickets sold at the door. For more information, call 612-920-1100.

History Talk Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann will speak on her book, *The Exile Mission*, an interesting study of Polish immigrant values and actions before and after World War II. At the PACIM Library, 7 pm, Wednesday, December 29. In her book, she mentions many people from Minnesota whom you might know. She will also bring a few signed books to sell. This is tight scheduling, but Dr. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann will be in town visiting relatives at that time and volunteered to spend a few hours speaking to us.

Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann received her M.A. in history from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland, and her Ph.D. in history from the University of Minnesota. She is a Professor of History in the Department of History at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, CT. She is author of several articles on the postwar Polish political diaspora. The Polish American Historical Association awarded Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann the prestigious Oskar Halecki Award for *The Exile Mission*.

American Legion Thursday Polish Nights at Marino's in the Fridley American Legion have been discontinued until January 6. We had 30 people for Polish Happy Hour there, but I don't know if they came for the companionship or the food. Eddie Matthes is a smart young man. He listens to all of the tips the grandmas give him. I bought pierogi and gołąbki for the freezer to hold until January. I also got some gołąbki for my cousin's birthday on December 19. Hope I still have them then!

See you in February In the meantime, Wesoych Świat i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

—Judith Blanchard, *Librarian*
763-571-9602

Echos from the North

News from Little Falls, Minnesota

At our last meeting the Polish Echos had "Show & Tell" time which proved to be very enjoyable. Everyone was asked to bring 3 Polish items and tell where they were obtained and any other interesting trivia. Among the items was a hand carved crucifix brought back from Poland by Roman Bonczek, who had served much of his military time in Poland. He had actually watched a young boy carve the arms of Jesus. There was also a set of Polish China, a number of other Polish dishes, amber jewelry, an icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa. A friend brought from Poland a beautiful table cloth and gave it to the Polish Echos. We hope to use it as an altar cloth the next time we celebrate with a Mass. One of our new members had just returned from a trip to Poland and brought his pictures, which everyone really enjoyed. This was our way of celebrating Polish Heritage Month. Many of us have traveled to Poland and many hope to do so in the near future.

With Christmas just around the corner the Echos decided we should have a "Polish" Christmas Tree, decorated with Polish ornaments; and so we will place one in the alcove of the church.

God's Blessings to all, enjoy th Christmas season.

— Phinee Zak, *President*, Polish Echos
320-632-2652

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Affiliate Member of the
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Contact them at: info@pacim.org

Events

By Judith Blanchard

Many dates and times for events are given to us well in advance of the actual date and are subject to change. Please call to verify the particulars.

December 11, 2010–January 2, 2011

Lira Singers

The Lira Singers will present a program of Polish and English Carols at the following locations.

December 11: Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake, IL, \$30-\$45

December 26: St. Albert the Great Church in Burbank, IL, \$30/children to age 16 \$10

January 2: St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles, IL, \$30-\$40/children to age 16 \$10. For more information, call 1-800-547-5472 or see www.likraensemble.org

December 12, 2010

Wigilia Benefit Dinner for Disadvantaged Polish Children

See Page 6

December 19, 2010

Midwest Polka Association Dance

There will be a special dance celebrating an early "95th Birthday" for Larry Trojanowski on Sunday, December 19, from 2–6 pm at the Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall, 6831 Highway 65, Fridley. Music will be provided by Joe Glowacki's Nordeast 5 band. A light lunch will be served. For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call 651-426-1079. For directions, call 763-571-1492.

December 24, 2010

Pasterka

Traditional Shepherds' Mass (in Polish and English) will take place at Church of the Holy Cross, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis, at midnight. Singing of carols will begin at 11:30 pm. For more information, call 612-789-7238.

December 25, 2010

Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Day Mass in Polish will take place at Church of the Holy Cross, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis, at 11:30 am. For more information, call 612-789-7238.

December 29, 2010

History Talk

See page 6.

December 31, 2010

Sylvester Dinner and Dance

The Topola Chór invites everyone to a New Year's Eve celebration at The Polish National Alliance Building, 13th & 4th St NE, Minneapolis. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Janina at 763-521-5321, Kora at 763-571-5041, or Walter at 952-544-1860.

January 9, 2011

Jaselka

The Christmas story will be re-enacted by Polish Saturday School children in the school auditorium. Free and open to the public. *Jaselka* begins after 11:30 mass at Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis.

January 15, 2011

PACIM's Kulig

Come and experience a Polish *Kulig* at Bunker Hills Park, about 30 minutes north of the Cities in Andover, from 2–5 pm on January 15. We start with an hour long horse drawn sleigh ride through woods and end back at a bonfire where we will roast Polish sausages and marshmallows. Cost is \$15 and space is limited to the first 30 people. It is recommended that you be there about a half hour before starting time. Participants only need bring warm clothes and their beverage of choice. For more information, contact maggie.zborowski@anchorlink.com

January 16, 2011

Caroling

Join PACIM in singing *kolędy*, Sunday, January 16, 1-2:30 pm at Catholic Eldercare, 817 Main St NE, Minneapolis. Meet in the atrium at 1 pm for practice prior to caroling. You are also invited to attend a Christmas sing-along at River Village, 2919 Randolph St NE, Minneapolis, at 3 pm. Words and music provided by Bob Gacek and his accordion. If there is illness at Eldercare, we will immediately go to River Village. Call on Saturday to confirm. For more information, call Judith at 763-571-9602.

January 30, 2011

Sylvester Dinner/Dance

Evening festivities offered by the Polish Committee of Holy Cross Church, in Kolbe Hall, 17th Ave and 4th St NE, Minneapolis. For more information, contact Andrzej at astanki@worldnet.att.net.



Don't forget the Kulig on Jan 15th.

“Remember, there will be a combined January/February issue of *Pol-Am* which will reach your mailboxes toward the end of January.”

People



**St. Stanisław
Kazimierczyk Sołtys
1433 to 1489
Feast Day May 5th**

On October 17th, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed Stanisław Sołtys the newest Polish saint. He joined the Order of Canons Regular of the Lateran at age 23. Besides being known for his patience, humility, chastity and modesty among other virtues, he was a gifted preacher with a great devotion to daily Mass. He carried out his pastoral duties in the town of Kazimierz, now a part of Kraków. King Jan I Olbracht attributed to Stanisław the victory over the Tartars in 1487 at the Battle of Kopystrzynem. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, as Bishop of Kraków, advocated his cause and as Pope beatified him on April 18, 1993.



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Polish Word Tips

Ależ sypnęło wczoraj śniegiem!
What a snow fall we had yesterday!

O mało co kozła na chodniku nie fiknąłem tak było ślisko.
The sidewalk was so slippery that I almost fell down.

Dzisiaj już na szczęście po kłopotcie, wszędzie posypane.
Luckily today it is over – it is sanded everywhere.

Used words and phrases:

śnieg pada, sypie – *snow is falling*
fiknać kozła – *to flip head first (like a goat), to fall down*
o mało co – *just by a bit, almost*
ślisko – *slippery*
po kłopotcie – *troubles are gone, passed*
posypać coś [piaskiem] – *to pour [sand] on something*



Twin Cities Polish Festival Receives Matching Grant

The Twin Cities Polish Festival is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a matching \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. This is a matching grant, meaning that TCPF must raise up to \$10,000 to receive the full grant.

Help the Twin Cities Polish Festival reach its fundraising goal to match this grant. Send your tax deductible donation to:

Twin Cities Polish Festival (TCPF),
PO Box 19312,
Minneapolis, MN 55419-0312

Your donation will be acknowledged by letter as well as publicly, unless you indicate otherwise.

We thank the following:

Helen Pietrowski \$100