THE
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
AT PANNA MARIA

Center Updates
September 2026

Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon,
PHC Chairman and President

You are cordially invited to our celebration of Bishop Yanta's 95th birthday on Oct. 3, along with the 5th anniversary of the grand opening the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria ... the showpiece of Bishop's vision and legacy.

`The Center will also highlight the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States of America at that event, celebrating Polish American-style. What a fabulous opportunity to come and visit the Center, tour the exhibit galleries and the special Bishop Yanta exhibit. The day also includes noted speakers who will detail the role of Polonia in the history of the United States and share Bishop Yanta's legacy.

A 4:30 p.m. vigil Mass will be celebrated at the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church. Following the Mass, and after a prayer and blessing at Bishop Yanta's grave, we will be entertained with Polish dancing and music on our PHC front porch, followed by a reception. All of the above to take place in the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the United States: Panna Maria, named for the Virgin Mary. Please view our website: polishheritagecentertx.org for further details.

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America's Independence... Polish-American Style!

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Gathering and Sign In
PHC Lobby

2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m
Mini-Symposiums
PHC Theatre

4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m
Mass
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m
Bishop John Yanta's Graveside Celebration of Life

5:45 p.m.-6:00 p.m
Presentation of Plaque and Group Photograph
PHC Porch

6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m
Entertainment
PHC Porch

6:30 p.m - 7:30 p.m
Hor d'oeuvres and Happy Hour
Music by Rebecca Jane Huck

It was a wonderful and moving experience to celebrate the life of Amanda Cebrowski, wife of PHC Board member John Cebrowski, on Aug. 17. She was a valued member of our Polish Heritage Center family. Amanda was surrounded by her family when she died, and the outpouring of well wishes and blessings for John and his family was impressive, as was the support of their Holy Trinity parish in San Antonio, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters and many organizations that John and Amanda have been active in.



The four Cebrowski daughters were active participants in Amanda's services and shared their "mom stories" at her Rosary. The eight Dominican Sisters from Nashville, including their daughter Sr. Mary Seton, sang acapella before her casket. Holy Trinity pastor, Fr. Rodolfo Caballero, Fr. Praveen Lakkisetti, and Fr. Wieslaw Iwaniec were the celebrants at her funeral Mass, along with two deacons. Amanda's grandsons were the pall bearers and her granddaughters were readers. After burial services at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, a fabulous reception was held at Holy Trinity and John gave an impressive talk about Amanda and thanked all the participants for their thoughts and prayers and actions. We will miss Amanda, and will keep her and her family in our prayers.

Stirring Up Tradition: Adult Polish Cooking School

By: Alice Poore, PHC Executive Director

Our August 1 Adult Cooking School was a delightful success as guests were welcomed with a morning mimosa before diving into their culinary adventure. Participants prepared two traditional Polish cookies: Grandma's Angel Wings (Chruściki) and Kolaczki, delicate pastries filled with apricot, peach, or strawberry preserves. Each chef left with two dozen cookies to share and enjoy with family.

After the cooking lessons, guests were treated to a lovely luncheon featuring chicken salad croissant sandwiches, fresh vegetables with dips, chips, and fruit.

Due to popular demand, the PHC will host three Adult Cooking School classes this fall, with the first scheduled for October 24, where chefs will share Polish tradition, one Pierogi at a time. These classes have become a tremendous success, and we look forward to many more wonderful gatherings in the months ahead.



Adult Polish Cooking Class

Experience the beauty of Polish culinary tradition in a hands-on class dedicated to crafting authenic pierogi. Enjoy a relaxed welcoming atmosphere with light refreshments provided.

Admission: $50 per person

Saturday, October 24, 2026
10 a.m.- 1p.m.

Please RSVP by 4 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2026
Email: christinag@polishheritagecentertx.org
Phone: 830-310-8612
FB messenger: Polish Heritage Center

Polish Heritage Center
13909 N. FM 81
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Painting with a Polish Twist

Join us for our first ever Painting with a Polish Twist class, with artist Joanie Bednorz. A light brunch will be provided. We can't wait to create something beautiful together.

Polish Heritage Center
13909 N. FM 81
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Saturday, October 17, 2026
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

RSVP by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Phone: 830.310.8612

Email: christinag@polishheritagecentertx.org

FB Messenger: Polish Heritage Center

PRICE $85/PERSON



Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Virtual Presentations

By Alice Poore, PHC Executive Director

We invite you to spend an hour online with us each month to learn something fascinating about Poland's rich culture and history. In August, we heard from Isabella Skrypczak who had translated her grandmother's memoirs about her girlhood spent in captivity in a Russian gulag. Her story was both horrific and uplifting. Our national guest speakers explore topics of history, culture, literature and life. It's always fascinating. You can find our library of virtual presentations on the PHC website at polishheritagecentertx.org.

Following is a list of the dates and programs planned for the coming months. Please remember some are still tentative, but you get the idea about what is in store for you. The virtuals commence at 6 p.m. and last about an hour. It's time well spent.

Proposed Virtual Program Series

Wednesday, September 9th, 2026
Pierogi: An American Story of Polish Food
Dr. Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann
Distinguished Professor of History and CSU Professor Emerita at Eastern Connecticut State University

Thursday, October 22nd, 2026 (Still waiting for final confirmation)
Jan Lorys, Historian
Polish Museum of America in Chicago

Thursday, November 12th, 2026
Ignacy Paderewski: Virtuoso, Philanthrope and Statesman
Tom Lenkiewicz

Thursday, December 17th, 2026
Dr. Yanek Mieczkowski, Ph.D

January 2027 - (date to be determined)
Polish Saints
Dr. John Hittinger
St. John Paul II Institute, University of St. Thomas, Houston

February 2027 - Date TBD
Dr. Pien Versteegh
President, Polish American Historical Assn.



The Kaslyn Moczygemba/Cooper Coffelt wedding will be in Panna Maria Sept. 26. Kaslyn's bridal shower was held at the PHC.

Donation Details

Have you wondered how to donate to PHC?

Here are some ways to consider:

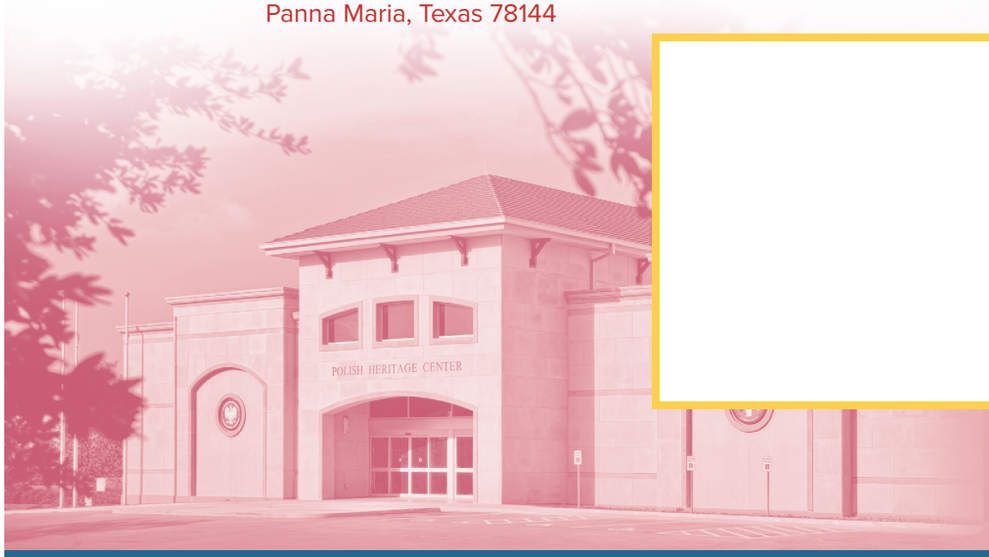
- Cash or Check
- Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) requirement
- Leave a Specific Bequest
- Set up a Donor Advised Fund
- Ask your Company to Fund a Matching Gift
- Sponsor an Event
- Make PHC the beneficiary of a life insurance policy

Ask your tax advisor or financial planner for details!

Scan the QR Code

THE
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
AT PANNA MARIA

13909 N FM 81
PO Box 25
Panna Maria, Texas 78144



PHC Hours: Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
www.polishheritagecentertx.org
(830) 310-8612

The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization.

TAX ID: #46-0561240

News from the Heritage Communities

You still have fond memories of the fried chicken in Falls City and the BBQ in Kosciusko. Now it's time for the fall festivals in our Polish communities.

Sept. 13	Church Festival, Holy Cross, Yorktown
Sept. 18-20	Fall Harvest Festival, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Houston
Sept. 25-27	Oktoberfest, La Villita, San Antonio (come visit PHC booth on Sat)
Oct. 11	Turkey Dinner & Homecoming, Immaculate Conception, Panna Maria
Oct. 18	Turkey Dinner, Nativity of the BVM Church, Cestohowa
Nov. 22	Turkey Dinner, Annunciation of the BVM Church, St. Hedwig