

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

A MEMBER OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

October/November 2015

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T-Day Countdown

As we are now a few weeks removed from our 100th Anniversary, there is much to look back on. I think most of you will enjoy the opportunity in pictures and reliving that wonderful day in the life of our parish in the later part of this newsletter.

This being the month of November, and with all that has happened in the last few months, I cannot help but keep the focus on thanksgiving, in all that word encompasses.

First, the best holiday of the year. From a secular (non-church) point of view, it very much is my favorite. It is all about family, reflecting on the blessings of life, eating a tremendous meal (with a built-in excuse to overindulge, another personal favorite), football, and making fun of people getting ready to go shopping that night or at 3am the next morning. Thanksgiving, as a holiday, truly runs the gamut on the



human experience...and I suppose the whole Mayflower/Pilgrims/colonization thing that is also important.

Thanks is also what was so, so evident on the faces of so, so many of our parishioners this early autumn. That first batch of thanks was when we finally returned to a renovated church, followed by the thanks for the new look of the church, followed by thanks that our big day finally approached...followed by the overwhelming thanks when it was all over.

Although it almost seems "expected" that they were to be with us for our celebration, it was such a blessing to have our Prime Bishop and Diocesan Bishop here to celebrate for us and with us.

"Intense" was how it was described to me, as a parishioner participated in the Mass concelebrated by all the clergy there.

"I didn't want it to end" was what multiple ladies said about a service that well-exceeded the "normal" hour or so.

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"It felt like I should go home and get to open presents."

"My heart was so full of joy."

"I have never been so proud to be a member of this church."

"You guys looked like you rehearsed for months."

These are some pretty telling quotes about the mindset and the moved hearts of the evening.

As you peruse this edition of the newsletter, which includes the recap of the "months that were" of September & October 2015, please be ever mindful that the work of St. Mary's continues.

Since that day of joy, there has been a residual uplifting of spirit. Even Sunday Mass attendance has crept up a bit, which is something to be thankful for no matter what the occasion.

As we wind down this month and the weather reaches dizzying highs in the 70's and shocking lows around "T-Day", be reminded of all of those things we are thankful for as a parish. 100 years is wonderful—but it is the continuation of devotion and prayer to the cause of Christ alone that will keep us winding towards October 2115.

Fr. Jason

Various Announcements

Restoration Drive

The Parish Committee voted this past Sunday to extend our Restoration Drive through the end of 2015. Now that some of the fruits of the Drive's labor have been produced, we encourage anyone who was "on the fence" to please consider making a donation in the coming weeks.

Chili Cook-Off

Please remember that on Sunday, November 15, we will be holding our chili cook-off. This event has been dormant for a few years. We ask that all YMSofR members (and anyone else) interested in participating to please bring a hearty pot of their best chili to offer. For further info please contact the event coordinator, Ron Ference 216-577-

1062. Also there will be a YMSofR meeting during this event.

Soup Sale

On Nov. 21, we will hold the first "Soup Sale" fundraiser. YMSofR Branch #29 is raising funds so that we can continue to help support the youth of our parish to attend various functions throughout the PNCC. We ask that all YMSofR members (and anyone else!!!) please help by preparing homemade soups. They can be made early and frozen. 1 Quart containers can be provided to you free of charge. If you would like to donate soups, please contact David Micka 570-947-3071.

Rummage Sale

Also on November 21st, the Rummage Sale will take place. It will

take place in the basement hall, and, judging by the amount of items on the stage, should fill it up quite nicely. There will be some light refreshments available for purchase, so perhaps consider grabbing a bite to eat while looking for the steal of the day. Please make your plans to drop items off by November 15th. A bake sale will be featured at this event again.

Food Ministry

November will play host again to a special Thanksgiving Day Food Ministry, taking place at noon after the 10am Holy Mass. Please consider volunteering for this wonderful way to spread the good news of Jesus through your work at St. Mary's.



Brotherly Love 2015 at St. Mary's

St. Mary's made sure to make the 2015 Solemnity of Brotherly Love a memorable one for our parish.

We started the celebration by participating in the Webinar for the Feast that was organized by the Future Directions subcommittee on Wednesday, September 9th. We heard the Prime Bishop's message as we gathered 17-strong around the projected screen.

On Sunday, September 13th, we trimmed the Mass schedule so that we only had one Holy Mass celebrated at 10am. It was one of the last Sundays that we celebrated Mass in the Fellowship Hall. In addition, all parishioners were asked to wear their red St. Mary's 100th Anniversary t-shirts that were ordered earlier in the summer.

After Mass, we all went outside to participate in the parish photo as well as group photos. The picture

of all our parishioners was featured in our 100th Anniversary Program Book as well as in the Order of Service for the 100th Anniversary Mass. Kudos to our talented parishioner and photographer of the day, Gene Stepanik. To top off the day, we had one of our famous potluck luncheons. As usual, our parishioners

did an exceptional job at bringing in all sorts of dishes to share with everyone. Dozens of take-out containers were filled for people to bring home, with still quite a bit of food left over.

Many thanks to all who participated in any and all facets of this celebration of the PNCC Feast of Brotherly Love.



Brotherly Love 2015 at St. Mary's (Cont.)



St. Mary's Honored at Parma City Council Meeting

On Monday, October 5, Father Jason and Chair Elaine Ploskonka were invited to the Parma City Council Meeting to represent St. Mary's as it was honored by the city on the occasion of our 100th Anniversary.

Per the invitation of City Council president Sean Brennan, they were called to accept recognition on behalf of the City Council, Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, the City Treasurer Thomas Mastroianni, and Law Director Brian Dobeck.

After being recognized by the representatives of the city as well all those gathered, they allowed Fr. Jason to speak a few words of "wisdom" as well as to offer Invocation.



Pictured is Council Representative of Ward 4 Brian Day, Mayor DeGeeter, Fr. Jason and Chair Ploskonka

YMSofR Convention

The United Young Men's Society of Resurrection held its 72nd Biennial Convention on Saturday October 3rd and Sunday October 4th, 2015 at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in South Deerfield, MA, in the presence of Fr. Randy Calvo and all the faithful of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

The United YMS of R has a two-fold objective: first to unite the youth of the Polish National

Catholic Church in God's name and in the name of the endeavor for the perfection of life.

At this convention, members of the Central Committee, as well as guests of the local YMSofR Branch, met to discuss some important matters in the life of the youth of our church.

The dissolving of the Field and

Track Meet was lamented, but the success of the 1st Golf Tournament was celebrated. The group took time to figure out how the youth can be served through this newfound success. The group also got a tour of the local Berkshire Brewing Company and met at New England's largest annual fair, the Eastern States Exposition (Big E).



New Acolyte

In September, we welcomed a new young man to the ranks of acolyte at St. Mary's.

Mr. Damion was installed as an acolyte at the 9am Mass on Sunday, September 27th after studying real hard and attending a Saturday Morning altar server boot camp with Fr. Jason.

Damion came out to Mass with just his red cassock on for his big day. As the prayers of installation were read, the current members of the acolyte guild placed his white surplice upon him, making him official.

He was so excited on his first day that he served Polish Mass

too! Mass attendees this day truly enjoyed the enthusiasm of our new acolyte.



October Craft Fair

St. Mary's played host to a Craft Fair on Saturday, October 24th from 10am- 4pm in the Basement Hall.

Mary Ann Kasperczyk did an incredible job with this entire affair. It was her brainchild, she made the calls, took the calls and emails, advertised, and made sure the event ran smoothly. Many, many thanks to this talented lady for her hard work.

The Love of God Sodality also hosted a bake sale in the Fellowship Hall during this time. People enjoyed being able to come upstairs to the Fellowship Hall to relax and enjoy a bite to eat.

The event was a success, with multiple vendors clamoring for St. Mary's to host another craft fair in the near future. Stay tuned!



Animal Blessing

St. Mary's held its annual Pet Blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday evening, October 4th at 6pm.

The evening was beautiful, one of those that you questioned whether short sleeves or a light jacket would do it.

There was a very, very large turnout for the event, as 80 humans and about that many furry, scaly, and feathery friends gathered. Our

prayers recalled the creation of animals in the Book of Genesis as well as prayers for safety and health of all gathered animals and for better lives for animals that are in need of just that.



Bowling Season Begins

St. Mary's Bowling League has kicked off what hopes to be another successful year of bowling. Bowling takes place at the Red Circle Lanes on selected Sunday afternoons at 3:30.

We saw an increase of participation, as we are up to 6 teams competing for the vaunted title of "najlepszy zespół w kręgle".

Stay tuned as our group plays out the string and revs up for the National PNCC/YMSofR Bowling Tournament in Detroit in 2016.

Thoughts from your parish chair.....

A Personal Thank You.... to our parishioners and friends that offered his or her talent and hard work to cleaning and refreshing our property inside and out; to those who assisted in the work that lead up to the beautiful celebration itself in church and at the banquet; to those that offered support with the Restoration Drive; and to everyone that joined us in the October 10th celebration. God blessed us with a perfect day!

I enjoy doing what I do for our parish. I am very grateful to be serving the parish as chair during our 100th year and honored that I have the support of so many parishioners! Thank you for that as well.

To our next 100 years!

Restoration Drive.... Thank you to everyone who has been able to donate to the Restoration Drive. Because of your generosity we have been able to do some wonderful things to our property and still have some updates that will be taking place. Our goal was to reach \$100,000.00 by October 10, 2015. We are at approximately \$32,000.00. Although it is unlikely we will reach the set goal we are very thankful for what has been received! The Parish Board agreed to extend the drive through the end of the year giving additional opportunity, for those that are able, to donate and to fulfill pledges that may have been made during the drive.

Did You Know.... Here are a few uses for coffee filters other than making coffee. We have an over abundance of filters right now, if you'd like to consider some of these uses and need filters please let me know!

1. Cover bowls or dishes.
2. Clean windows, mirrors, and chrome.... Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.
3. Protect China by separating your good dishes with a coffee filter between each dish.
4. Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.
5. Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.
6. Apply shoe polish. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter.
7. Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter; sesame, sunflower, and safflower oils can be reused 3-4 times.
8. Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.
9. Do you think we used expensive strips to wax eyebrows? Use strips of coffee filters.
10. Put a few in a plate to soak up grease from fried bacon, French fries, chicken fingers, etc.
11. Keep in the bathroom. They make great "razor nick fixers."
13. As a sewing backing. Use a coffee filter as an easy-to-tear backing for embroidering or appliquéing soft fabrics.
13. Put baking soda into a coffee filter and insert into shoes or a closet to absorb or prevent odors.
14. Use them to strain soup stock and to tie fresh herbs in to put in soups and stews.
15. Use a coffee filter to prevent spilling when you add fluids to your car..
16. Use them to wrap Christmas ornaments for storage.
17. Use them to remove fingernail polish when out of cotton balls.
18. Use them to sprout seeds. Simply dampen the coffee filter, place seeds inside, fold it and place it into a plastic baggie until they sprout.
19. Use as a disposable "snack bowl" for popcorn, chips, etc.

Thanks for reading,

elaine p. plaskonka

Our 100th Anniversary

The 100th Anniversary of St. Mary's PNCC took place on Saturday October 10th, 2015, as the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, gave glory to the Holy Trinity, beginning our procession for the 3pm Centennial Mass.

The procession included members of the Love of God Sodality, Branch #29 (Parma) of the YMSofR, Acolytes, and clergy.

The procession made its way into church, pausing as the traditional "Witaj, Pasterze Witaj!" wel-

comed the Bishop of the Western Diocese of the PNCC, the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski as well as Prime Bishop Mikovsky.

Ralph Zaun, Chair Emeritus of the parish, welcomed Bishop Bilinski with the traditional bread and salt. Our Chair Elaine Ploskonka welcomed Prime Bishop. Together, they thanked the bishops for coming to pray on behalf of all current and former members of St. Mary's.

Holy Mass was celebrated in the Contemporary Rite as Prime Bishop Mikovsky led the Concelebration with the gathered priests in attendance. Concele-

brants included: Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Bishop Bilinski, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak (Hamtramck, MI), Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak (Westfield, MA), Rev. Jason Soltysiak (Parma, OH), Rev. Greg Gronn (N. Olmsted, OH), Rev. John Cramer (Dearborn Hts, MI), Rev. Raymond Drada (Sterling Hts, MI) and Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski (McKeesport, PA). Rev. Drada also served as Master of Ceremonies, along with assistant MC and diaconate candidate Cleric Richard Kasprzak.

As Prime Bishop Mikovsky gave God the Glory for his being at



All 100th Anniversary Photo Credits go to Mr. Gene Stepanik—Thank you Gene!

Our 100th Anniversary (Cont.)

St. Mary's for the day, he mentioned how the perseverance and prayerful nature of the people of St. Mary's brought them to the joyous day.

The readings and intercessions were read by parishioners Carole D'Arcy, Barbara Bogzevitz, and Bob Samelson, as well as Cleric Richard. Rev. Gronn proclaimed the Gospel from the middle of the church in

Gospel Procession.

Bishop Stanley Bilinski served as homilist for the day, retracing his steps as one who participated in the life of St. Mary's as a child with family on vacation, then as pastor, and later as bishop. The Holy Spirit was with our bishop as he mentioned how very emotional it was to preach before the clergy and congregation he cares so much for.

The choir of St. Mary's belted away with full voice and heart, singing hymns and selections that were chosen many months prior. Among them included "Blessed is He", "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name", "We Will Lift Up Your Name," "Be Still", "Breathe On Me", "Before You I Kneel", "Beloved, Let Us Love One Another", "10,000 Reasons", and "God of Our Fathers."

The Love of God Sodality filled the front pews throughout the church, shining their light on be-



Our 100th Anniversary (Cont.)

half of all Sodality Sisters in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Branch #29 of the YMSofR served as Ushers for the Distribution of Holy Communion. Our greeting ministry did their usual wonderful job welcoming new and old alike to our parish.

The Sign of Peace was delivered to all gathered by the clergy from the altar. Holy Communion was distributed by the bishops and Fr. Jason brought it to the choir loft.

After receiving the Episcopal Blessing, Fr. Jason thanked everyone in attendance and encouraged everyone to meet all the clergy in the landing outside the front doors of the church.

Following services, all were asked to drive a few miles up the road to Pokrova Hall, where the banquet and dance would take place.

Appetizers and cocktails were served for an hour, with the ban-

quet beginning with the welcome, introduction of the master of ceremonies (Dr. James Ploskonka), Invocation (Fr. Cramer), anthems, and a toast (Michael Ference).

Following dinner, the formalities began with the introduction of the head table, greetings from PNCC luminaries in attendance, and the reception of formal congratulatory greetings from various state officials.

Bishop Bilinski offered remarks as Diocesan



Our 100th Anniversary (Cont.)

Bishop, followed by our Main Address by Prime Bishop Mikovsky. Flowers were then presented by parish youth to our beloved bishops.

Presentations were then made concerning our parish's Past (Michele Barry-Misiewicz), Present (Elaine Ploskonka) and Future (Fr. Jason Soltysiak). All were well-received.

Benediction was offered by the Administrative Senior of the

Northeast Seniorate, Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak. After singing "Sto lat!" and "Tyle Lat", attendees danced the night away or chit-chatted about the evening's happenings.

The celebration continued Sunday morning, as we celebrated only one Mass at 10am, with Bishop Bilinski as our Celebrant and Prime Bishop Mikovsky as our homilist.

After Mass, the Fesz and

Boehnlein families, led by the efforts and idea of Susan, put together an amazing breakfast. It included a waffle station, various egg dishes, fruits, drinks, and more.

Each table received a commemorative 100th Anniversary napkin. In addition, various raffles brought to the winners circle recipients of even more stuff!

Since there were so, so, so many involved with our 100th Anniversary—simply, thank you to all.



Oct/Nov Days of Note



October Birthdays

5	-	Eileen Evanoff
7	-	Elaine Repede
10	-	Greg Hodor
17	-	Michael D'Arcy
23	-	James Boehnlein
25	-	Bruce Bogzevitz
30	-	Judy Atherton
30	-	Krysta Kurzynski
31	-	Marlane Oleniacz
31	-	Patty Temesi

November Birthdays

5	-	Ron Ference
6	-	Alice Petrie
7	-	Kathleen Beres
11	-	Mike Matis
15	-	Mary Ann Loschelder
16	-	Craig Atherton
16	-	Mike Paulus
21	-	Krista O'Connor
22	-	Josephine Ference
24	-	Jeff Dreger
25	-	Michael Petrie
29	-	Barb Baranowski
29	-	Eliza Dreger



October Anniversaries

- 3— Jack & Lolly Spilka
- 4— Jeff & Amy Dreger
- 5— Pete & Debbie Moritz

November Anniversaries

- 4— Fr. Roman & Jolanta Misiewicz
- 5— Dale & Pattie Dotson

“A Thanksgiving to God”

Robert Harrick

Lord, Thou hast given me a cell
Wherein to dwell,
A little house, whose humble roof
Is weather-proof:
Under the spars of which I lie
Both soft, and dry;
Where Thou my chamber for to ward
Hast set a guard
Of harmless thoughts, to watch and keep
Me, while I sleep.
Low is my porch, as is my fate,
Both void of state;
And yet the threshold of my door
Is worn by th' poor,
Who thither come and freely get
Good words, or meat.
Like as my parlour, so my hall
And kitchen's small;
A little buttry, and therein
A little bin,
Which keeps my little loaf of bread
Unchipp'd, unlead;
Some brittle sticks of thorn or briar
Make me a fire,
Close by whose living coal I sit,
And glow like it.
Lord, I confess too, when I dine,
The pulse is Thine,
And all those other bits, that be
There plac'd by Thee;
The worts, the purslain, and the mess
Of water-cress,
Which of Thy kindness Thou hast sent;
And my content
Makes those, and my beloved beet,
To be more sweet.
'Tis Thou that crown'st my glittering hearth
With guiltless mirth;
And giv'st me wassail-bowls to drink,
Spic'd to the brink.
Lord, 'tis Thy plenty-dropping hand
That soils my land;
And giv'st me, for my bushel sown,
Twice ten for one;
Thou mak'st my teeming hen to lay
Her egg each day;
Besides my healthful ewes to bear
Me twins each year;
The while the conduits of my kine
Run cream, for wine.
All these, and better, Thou dost send
Me, to this end,
That I should render, for my part,
A thankful heart,
Which, fir'd with incense, I resign,
As wholly Thine;
But the acceptance, that must be,
My Christ, by Thee.

Our Prayer List

Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Marlane Oleniacz	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig & Judy Atherton	John Spilka
Louise Cygan	Alison Jambor
Mary Ann Loschelder	June Zaun
Marty Bengala	Amy Dreger

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Colby Howard
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Oliver Kuta	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol & Chuck Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Joemel Rollen	Veronica Babic
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Don and Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Jack Amburgey, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Howard Dicken
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
Duda Family	Fr. Sr. John Kraus
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Chuck Zaranski	Madilyn Perry
Elsa Vogl de Gomez	Wanda Heffner
Kim Blaha	John Clark Sr.
Rose S.	Geri S.
Robert Winlock	Veronica Babic
Chris Minch	Nancy Jablonowski
Jason Dreger	Tom Bowen

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

Shirley Paulus	Tony Mudrak
Gene Mora	Polly Gajda

WE ALSO REMEMBER
ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN
Bless them, O Lord.

