

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2023

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What do YOU do during Mass?

Having spent a bit of time traveling this past month (story on p. 6!), I did take in and notice some of the different ways that congregations respond to prompts in the Mass. These prompts during liturgy are called "rubrics" and they are directions of what is or should be done as the liturgy takes place.



Us priests? We have a ton of rubrics to know and master. Though we are never to memorize the Mass itself, the rubrics should be as ingrained within us as is instinctively waving our hand to say hello to someone. For the layperson, well, it is a bit different. I'd like to address a few of those rubrics that are meant for you, the attendee of Holy Mass.

The first is the "striking of the breast" during the Confiteor – colloquially known as the "mea culpa" or perhaps, the "moja wina". It isn't only during the Confiteor – worshippers are also

prompted to do so during the "Agnus Dei/Lamb of God", whether it is spoken or chanted. You'll notice that some people lightly tap their chest and others may leave a mark with the ferocity of their strikes!

St. Augustine said of this act: "No sooner have you heard the word 'Confiteor' than you strike your breast. What does this mean except that you wish to bring to light what is concealed in the breast, and by this act to cleanse your hidden sins?" St. Jerome wrote: "We strike our breast because the breast is the seat of evil thoughts: we wish to dispel these thoughts, we wish to purify our hearts". There was even a practice to strike the breast during the Our Father at the line "Forgive us our trespasses!"

The second rubric I want to address is the Sign of the Cross...but not in a

general way. There are two specific points where clergy and laity are called to bless themselves together that I want to address – during the conclusions of the Gloria and the Creed.

You'll have noticed that fancy red iron-crossish symbol in your pew books – this is not just for the priest, it is for you too. But why? The primary reason is that the Holy Trinity is praised in a short period of time- the Gloria states: "You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of † God the Father."

For those who were raised in the Roman Catholic Church, this will seem foreign- there hasn't been a cross indicating that you should bless yourselves in their printed documentation in many decades. But this is not the Roman Catholic Church! It is a custom that we never eliminated, even as our primary form of the Mass changed from the Tridentine to Traditional to



Opening Article (Con't)

Contemporary Rite. The same is true for the Creed – it was once part of the printed text but was eliminated as well as within the Sanctus.

Why? It is a call back to the Latin Rite of the Mass where there were 54 (!) signs of the cross offered by the priest, with many accompanying prayer books signifying rubrics for the people that were, well, in-step but not praying along with the Mass. A sign of the cross was amongst the most participatory things when participating in something so beautiful and divine...and yet, in a language very few understood. Those accompanying prayer books were often in the vernacular (language of the people) that provided prayers, posture, and action to do in the pews while the priest was doing "his thing" upon the altar.



The third rubric is the Gospel's 3 mini-crosses. One is to trace the cross with thumb on one's forehead, lips, and heart. This represents the ancient prayer, "God, be in my head and in my thinking; God be in my lips and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my understanding." It also is a self-anointing of sorts for the work of the gospel required of each of us as we hear it: our ears are blessed by hearing it, our mind must be open to understand the complexities, our heart open to receive it and our lips made ready to proclaim it.

The fourth rubric doesn't actually exist, but perhaps you have strong feelings

about it. When the celebrant of Holy Mass is saying the words of Consecration and elevating the host and then the chalice...what should the layperson do?

Father Jim Ploskonka would argue strongly that, at the guidance of his mother and home parish as a youth, one is to bow his head and keep his eyes lowered throughout. Fr. Jim continues this pious practice to today



when he attends Mass, save for when he is con-celebrating Holy Mass. The piety behind it would be that this is the moment of bread-made-Body, a moment of divinity that one would be unworthy to gaze upon.

Some would say that during the words of Consecration, the eyes are lowered and that at the elevations, eyes should be raised. This would be a call back to what we colloquially call "Mass facing away from the people", or, Ad Orientem, "To the East". The congregation would listen intently to the words of Consecration, but, hav-



ing the priest between the pews and the sacrifice, would only see the chalice and host at the elevation – and he is elevating for you to gaze upon the divinity present!

A third argument would be that, since we started "Mass facing the people", then the people should have the option to view everything – that this is the entire point of this change to liturgy.

The fifth and final rubric is what to do with your hands during the Our Father...but I wrote an article about that a number of months ago (August 2022, available on our parish website) and fully expect everyone to remember it!



There are other rubrics that fall more in-line with the explanation I gave for what to do during the Consecration. One example is when receiving Holy Communion. Should one bow before receiving Communion? Should one say "Amen" before or after receiving? Should one immediately bless oneself or wait until crossing the crucifix or tabernacle?

The only true answer is to receive our Lord's Body and Blood with great reverence, whichever combination of rubrics you use personally to do so.

With hopes that this adds a little more thought to your actions...ahem, your "rubrics" during your Sunday worship, may we ever connect closer to our Lord in worship. Fr. Jason

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Blanket Workshops

Did you ever wonder what it means on the first Tuesday of every month when the bulletin or the calendar lists "Blanket Workshop"?

It is an extension of the outreach of the Mission Team of St. Mary's. Sometimes, as pictured alongside here, it is a blanket workshop, where prayer blankets are lovingly prepared and made, awaiting a time when they are called upon to be blessed and distributed to someone in need of a lift.

Other times, this day will be spent making cards near a certain holiday, for a specific group, or something else. There is always a bite to eat and a cup of something warm



to drink – anyone is invited to stop by and lend a helping hand.



Important Zoom Meetings

The PNCC continues to mourn the loss of the Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, our Diocesan Bishop. Our Prime Bishop, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, and Diocesan Administrator, Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, held meetings of our Diocesan Council and Diocesan Clergy on September 6 & 13, respectively.

The meetings were to serve as a sounding-board of sorts for anyone who felt like they were out of the loop of information. Our Prime Bishop gave some intel as to why he chose a Diocesan Administrator as opposed to naming himself to that office. Fr. Sr. Charles promised his loyalty to the parishes and work of the diocese to the best of his ability.

The Council met and acquiesced to all the information given to them; the clergy were peppering our leaders with many,

many questions. Their efforts of communication were highly appreciated.



Sp. June Zaun

June C. Zaun (nee Kwiatek), age 93, entered eternal rest on September 3, 2023.



Beloved wife of the late Ralph, who was long time chairman of St. Mary's PNCC.

Loving mother of Laura Samelson (deceased) and David Zaun (Sheri). Dear grandmother of Heather Zaun (Adam Zbydnowski) and Danny Zaun (Vanessa). Cherished great grandmother of Harlee, Logan, and Juniper.

Daughter of the late Julius and Caroline Kwiatek. Dear aunt of Carolyn Schoeff (David). June played violin in the Parma Symphony Orchestra for many years. She was a very talented artist and loved gar-

dening and birds. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Visitation took place at Yurch Funeral Home on Thursday, September 7 with the Funeral Mass on Friday, September 8 here at St. Mary's PNCC. Internment at Holy Cross Cemetery in Brook Park. Donations in her memory may be made to the parish or the Parma Symphony Orchestra. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace!

St. Mary's Weekly Food Ministry

Another busy month for St. Mary's Food Ministry- we served 362 meals for the month of September. This makes our total of meals served for this year at 3,461!

Food ministry is always looking for volunteers. If you can donate just 2 hours a week or even just 2 hours a month please see Cathy Avondet, Nancy Roharik or Patty Bennett.



Father Jason on the Move!

September included some church travel for Fr. Jason, as I leaned upon the parish committee, Fr. Greg and Fr. Jim in my absence.

My first trip was home to New England, where I stayed in the home of my adolescence to visit my ill father. I was blessed with the opportunity to celebrate Holy Mass at St. Joseph's PNCC in Westfield, MA on Sunday, September

17. Thank you to Sub-Deacon Justin Davault for his continuing ministry to help out the parish in my father's absence. I am forever grateful to the people of this parish who created an environment of support for someone to desire to enter the priesthood of Jesus Christ. I also spent extended time with my family, even going out with everyone to visit "The Big E", the 5th largest fair in our United States and a

15-minute drive from the homestead.

On Sunday, September 24, Natalie and Brady joined me on a drive to Chicago/Park Ridge, IL, where we spent a Saturday taking in the sights on a picture-perfect

early autumn day in downtown Chicago. On Sunday, I was asked to preach the homily and concelebrate Holy Mass with Rev. David Rowinski, administrator of the All Saints Cathedral parish. After Mass, I gave a presentation on behalf of the National United Young Men's Society of the Resurrection (YMSofR), offering to them the benefits of having their men join as a branch of this organization. The visit was successful, but traveling all over the church over a span of 9 days left me weary!



Sp. Mary Ann Loschelder

Mary Ann Loschelder age 81, passed

away Friday, September 22, 2023. Born November 15, 1941 to parents Joseph G. and Catherine Cygan of Parma, OH.

She was a graduate of Parma High School and served the Parma City Schools for 30 years in the Continuing Education Department. She served on St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church board with her predeceased husbands and enjoyed arts & craft projects, gardening, pets and following Cleveland professional sports teams. She cherished spending time with her family. Mary Ann (Mare) was the dearly beloved wife of Gary Loschelder (d.2007) and first husband David Adams (d.2002);



dear mother of David S. Adams; sister of Jeanette Sekerak (d.2008), Joseph L. Cygan; grandmother of Matthew, Emily, Ryan, Brayden, and Easton.

Family and friends are invited to a 9am funeral Mass October 4, 2023 at St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church, 5375 Broadview Rd. (corner of Wexford & Broadview Rds.), Parma 44134. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church. Interment following at Holy Cross Cemetery. Cremation by Busch Crematory.



Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) Convention

Parish 2nd Vice Chair Mike Wisniewski approached the Parish Committee in late spring with the idea of possibly hosting a PLAV State Convention on the premises of St. Mary's. The idea would be to use both halls, classrooms, and possibly put the food together as well.



Parish Chair Susan Boehnlein and company drew up a proposal for Mike to present and the bid was accepted.

Mike was able to show everyone around and make our parish offerings comfortable while a small contingent St. Mary's finest helped prep, cook, and present the food while the event was running.

Many thanks to all who were involved to make this a mutually-beneficial event for the PLAV as well as for our parish. Enjoy some pictures from the day...and ask Mike to identify and explain them when you see him!



Back to Church Sunday

Sunday, September 17 was national Back-To-Church Sunday and St. Mary's used it as a Back-to-Church and Bring a Friend Sunday.

We welcomed back a number of friends who hadn't stopped by church in a while as well as a few who were visiting for the first time. A delicious

outlay of food was prepared for after 9am Holy Mass as an extra welcome to the aforementioned as well as our beloved regular attendees. Thank you to all who put in the extra time to make it a special Sunday.



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CHANCERY OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE
Polish National Catholic Church
9201 W. Higgins Road - Chicago, IL 60631-2706

Very Reverend Charles Zawistowski
Diocesan Administrator
Phone: (574) 485-8520 Email: smparmail@comcast.net



October 1, 2023

Dear Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Deacons, and the Dear Faithful of the Western Diocese:

As we continue to labor for the glory of Jesus Christ, I want to extend my appreciation for all that has occurred and being planned for in our diocese from Special Masses and Celebrations, fundraisers, Word of God and Bible studies, Sunday School programs, National and Diocesan events and so much more. I encourage you to visit the diocese web site at: <https://www.westerndiocese.org> to connect with family and friends, see what is happening, and start making plans for how we all can be serving and praising God.

Before we begin contacting those individuals whose names have been submitted to the Vocations Commission as potential candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Polish National Catholic Church, I would like to provide another opportunity to receive names. We plan to commence our outreach for the Sacred Vocations campaign at the beginning of next month. I wanted to ensure that you were provided with this opportunity. Thank you in advance for your discernment on this matter. Finally, please accept my deepest appreciation for all that you, your parish, organizations, and clergy do to bring spiritual renewal to us, our parish, organizations, clergy, and the communities that we serve community.

Heavenly Jesus,

We come before you with humble hearts, seeking your guidance and blessings for our journey of spiritual renewal. May You open our hearts and minds, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit, so that we may be vessels of Your love and grace to others. As it is written in Isaiah 40:31, *"but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

Lord, empower Your parishes, organizations, and clergy to be instruments of Your peace and healing in our communities. Help us to spread your word and support those in need, bringing hope and comfort to all who seek Your presence.

In Acts 1:8, You have said, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* May we be filled with this power, Lord, so that we may be effective in our mission to share your love and salvation with the world. Guide us in our endeavors and grant us the wisdom to discern Your will, as we strive to bring light to the darkness and hope to the hopeless.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, Amen.
In Christ,

Father Senior Charles Zawistowski, Administrator
Western Diocese of The Polish National Catholic Church

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Various Announcements

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER/CANON— for every Sunday of October, we will use the 4th Canon on pg. 88.

NIGHT AT THE RACES— Thank you to everyone who participated in this wonderful event! We enjoyed great food, fun, and fellowship a few blocks from here and raised some important funds for our parish! Thank you to everyone who put in so much time and effort in preparation and execution for this parish-wide event. A full write-up with pictures will be in next month's newsletter.

PET BLESSING—The St. Francis of Assisi Animal blessing takes place Wednesday, October 4. The event will be rain or shine – if inclement, please remain in your cars and our clergy will bless your pets.

OPERATION: CHRISTMAS CHILD – Our collection is beginning! A cash donation of \$10 for postage is needed as well. Boxes will be available - see Evonne Pryer with questions. Collection week is Nov. 13-19.

CUB SCOUT PACK 216 MEAT SALE – Will take place after 9am Mass next Sunday, Oct. 8. The cost is \$1.50 per stick and there are many flavor choices Support the pack!

SUNDAY SCHOOL/SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING—Has begun. It is not too late to enroll your child for a solid Christian Education during the time that usually overlaps our weekly coffee hour.

ST. MARY'S BOWLING LEAGUE began at Red Circle Lanes on State Rd. This league is open to all level of bowlers, as it is based off a handicapped average. See Elaine Ploskonka.

WORD OF GOD STUDY – The theme for our October Word of God Study will be "The Blessed Virgin Mary in Scripture and Liturgy within the PNCC" and takes place at 8pm on October 3, 10, & 17. We will discuss the Blessed Virgin Mary as found in Scripture, Tradition, the teachings of the PNCC and through our Liturgy. It is open to all & free via Zoom. See Fr. Jason, Fr. Jim or email wdpnccnews@gmail.com.

PRIESTS AWAY—Fr. Jim will be celebrant here while Fr. Jason is away on Sunday, October 8. Fr. Jim will be away Sunday, Oct. 15 at the National YMSofR Convention at Divine Providence PNCC in Norwich, CT.

CHOIR REHEARSALS – Have begun and will usually take place on Mondays at 6:30, but there is always great communication if a practice needs to be moved. See Chris Paulus, get on the contact list and join in song!

ACME—We are participating in the Acme "Community Cash Back" program which runs until February 15, 2024. Hooray, more months to help out our parish! Turn in all receipts you have from Acme now until our end date- St. Mary's receives 5% back from each Acme item!

BASKET RETURN – We did have some lucky winners of the immense basket raffle at the Night at the Races— feel free to bring your basket in so we can hopefully fill them up again for our Christmastime raffle!

HALLOWEEN PARTY – A church Halloween Party will take place on Sunday October 30th in the place of SOCL. Kids are permitted to wear costumes to church. If parishioners would like to bring treats for the kids, please do so! For any other questions, please see Evonne Pryer.

PRAYER LIST/WYPOMINKI—Envelopes for the wypominki list/prayer remembrance list will be available within the next weeks. The submitted names of the departed will be read throughout Sundays in November. The All Souls Cemetery service takes place Sun, Oct. 29th at noon at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th St.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

October 1 – Sophie & Martin Szpilka of. by John Spilka

October 8— Steve Temesi of. by wife Patty Temesi

October 15— Open for an Intention

October 22 – Adolph Kasperczyk of. by John & Eileen Kasperczyk & family

October 29 – Open for an Intention

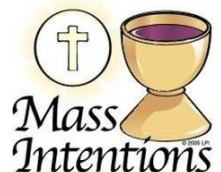
November 5 – Ron Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe

November 12— Hanna Pryer of. by daughter Evonne Pryer

November 19— Ann Stepanik of. by son Gene Stepanik

November 26 – Adolph & Helen Kasperczyk (Wedding Anv.) of. by son John & family

Final 2023 open dates: Oct. 15, 29; Dec. 17



October Days of Note



October Birthdays

- 4 - Marzena Krulik
- 5 - Eileen Cashmere
- 7 - Elaine Repede
- 9 - Nancy Roharik
- 9 - Jo Orlovski
- 10 - Greg Hodor
- 17 - Michael D'Arcy
- 18 - Ron Roharik
- 19 - Cathy Avondet
- 23 - James Boehnlein
- 25 - Bruce Bogzevitz
- 25 - Jim Nemec
- 30 - Krysta Kurzynski
- 31 - Marlane Oleniacz
- 31 - Patty Temesi



October Anniversaries

- 3 - Jack & Lolly Spilka
- 4 - Jeff & Amy Dreger
- 5 - Pete & Debbie Moritz
- 7 - George & Patty Bennett

Have we missed a birthday or anniversary? Sorry! Just give us a shout so we can fix any errors that have been made :-)

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OH on Facebook or
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"Guardian Angel"

*Honoring the October 2nd Feast of
the Guardian Angels*

My oldest friend, mine from the hour
When first I drew my breath;
My faithful friend, that shall be mine,
Unfailing, till my death;

No beating heart in holy prayer,
No faith, inform'd aright,
Gave me to Joseph's tutelage,
Or Michael's conquering might.

Nor patron Saint, nor Mary's love,
The dearest and the best,
Has known my being, as thou hast known,
And blest, as thou hast blest.

Thou wast my sponsor at the font;
And thou, each budding year,
Didst whisper elements of truth
Into my childish ear.

And when, ere boyhood yet was gone,
My rebel spirit fell,
Ah! thou didst see, and shudder too,
Yet bear each deed of Hell.

And then in turn, when judgments came,
And scared me back again,
Thy quick soft breath was near to soothe
And hallow every pain.

Oh! who of all thy toils and cares
Can tell the tale complete,
To place me under Mary's smile,
And Peter's royal feet!

And thou wilt hang about my bed,
When life is ebbing low;
Of doubt, impatience, and of gloom,
The jealous sleepless foe.

Mine, when I stand before the Judge;
And mine, if spared to stay
Within the golden furnace, till
My sin is burn'd away.

And mine, O Brother of my soul,
When my release shall come;
Thy gentle arms shall lift me then,
Thy wings shall waft me home.

By John Henry Newman

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer | Bob Kaczmarek |
| Bill Kastak | Anna Dawidziuk |
| George & Linda Makovicka | John Spilka |
| Johanna Markiewicz | Patrick Kmitt |
| Jim Boehnlein | Sauna Smullen |
| Marty Bengela | Tom Putynski |
| Kim Kolens | Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Joseph Bischoff |
| David Micka | Jeff Lukas |
| Ed Pierson | George Bennett |
| Daniel Morgan | Pattie Dotson |
| Nicole McGivern | Jack Spilka |
| Elaine Repede | David Vaden |
| Wanda Clark | Beth Chihill |
| Michael Cosevin | Helen Cummings |
| Laina Dachtal | Michael McGivern |
| Jay Grabowsky | Pam Chesar |
| Cecelia Hall | Caroline Kunes |
| Linda Marks | Thomas Lill |
| John & Anne Nemetz | Rhonda Smith |
| Al Piniecki | Carol Boesch |
| Joanie True | Daniel Rinella |
| Penny Dennison | Tom Slomka |
| Wojciech Fedorowicz | Ben Soltis |
| Pam Tropiano | Linda Vect |
| Dennis and Sue Vect | Marcus Vaughn, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzuroff | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Doreen Stanley | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Wisniewski | Cathy Pieciak |
| Nan Cramer | Barb & Jim Lukas |
| Mike Pescitelli | Kathy Robertson |
| Phil Repko | Richard & Edna Samelson |
| Jim Giles | Kathleen Sobocinski |
| Bill Zychowski | Loretta Baldwin |
| Donna Kidd | Paulette Lilli |
| Joseph Zubel | Margaret & Lew Heifner |
| Marilyn Girard | Courtney Austin |
| Stephanie Milla | Shannon Alberino |
| Jayden Pieciak | Joyce Zeigler |
| Sam Bass | Katie Stallbaum |
| Marcia Klein | Kim Penney |
| Dan Ewanko | Tom Dennison |
| Roseanne & George Ziefle | |

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

