

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

May 2022

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*Mary on the other side of the sanctuary—
Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH*

Something About Mary...

May is the month of our Patroness, Mary, and I wanted to spend a little word space here on a few things I thought our readers might enjoy regarding the Blessed Mother and what we see when we arrive in church.

Though most of our people use the side entrance, imagine for a moment that you were to use the front door entrance to St. Mary's and what would welcome you as you walked in.

Of course, the crucifix in the middle of our sanctuary is what draws the eye first. But for a healthy portion of

the year, Mary's altar will be next. Not all readers are lifelong members of St. Mary's, so I wonder, as you search your memory banks, how many of you remember the "side altars" at the parish where you grew up? While other denominations have moved away from the concept of side altars, most of our parish structures predate when those changes began to be made.

As we look at the sanctuary, our Marian Altar is on the left side...or the Gospel side. Did you ever wonder why? And have you seen it reversed, where perhaps Joseph's Altar was on the left and Mary's on the right? Or, as in my parish of my First Mass, St. Joseph was in the middle and Jesus was on the left, with Mary on the right.

See, that actually means something right there that we will come back to. But in most of your travels, you will

notice that the layout will match what we have in our parish. The reason originally comes from Old Testament Scripture. In the Litany of Loreto, or the Litany of Mary, we note Mary as "Queen of...martyrs, patriarchs, etc." Queen of many things!

The First Book of Kings, chapter 2 verse 19 states: "Bathshe'ba went to King Solomon, to speak to him on behalf of Adoni'jah. And the king rose to meet her, and bowed down to her; then he sat on his throne, and had a seat brought for the king's mother; and she sat on his right".

The Jewish tradition was always that the Queen Mother sit at the right hand of the King. This is what we see from our altars, if we imagine that the crucified Christ in the middle of the



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Fr. Jason's Article (con't)

Sanctuary is on the throne of the Cross, with Mary at his right.

An adjustment to the placement of Mary and her altar in a church is dependent on who is in the middle. Like I noted at my home parish of St. Joseph's in Westfield, MA- Joseph is in the middle, but a statue of Christ is on the left, with Mary at the right. Why? Well, simply, the right hand is of a higher accord, and as the 2nd member of the Trinity, Christ will always "rank" ahead of Mary. Other parishes in our denomination have a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the place of Joseph- this would also be on that second layout description.

There was a point in time where people were separated by gender while attending church. Women and children would go on one side – Mary's – while the men would go on the side adorned by St. Joseph.



Up until the Protestant Reformation in the 1500's, this was a pretty common Christian practice.

Since that time, this practice has dissipated throughout Christianity, only remaining in a few denominations, including the Coptic Church, which we find just a few miles up the street from St. Mary's on Pleasant Valley Rd. It remains a practice in some other faith practices, like Orthodox Judaism and Islam.

Keep an eye out when you visit churches! Church architecture is fascinating and silently tells stories of centuries of Christian history.

Fr. Jason

Various Announcements

POTLUCK BRUNCH—Please plan on spending a little extra time after Mass next Sunday, May 15th, for our first potluck...in a while! Bring a main, a dessert, an app, or yourself...but bring your appetite!

POLISH PARADE—Thank you to the nice group who marched this past Sunday representing St. Mary's. 20 humans and 2 dogs marched with our group, and as is customary, we ran out of candy by the end of the parade! Raindrops did not arrive until later in the day – a blessing for all to represent their beloved parish on a May afternoon. We will have a write up next edition of the newsletter.

MAY DEVOTIONS—May Devotions have begun, with services taking place each Wednesday during May. Please consider attending these devotions to the Blessed Mother, patroness of our Parish. It is an opportunity to see one of the unique liturgies of the church: Litany, Exposition, a short procession, all in about 30 minutes.

LIVING STATIONS—Our own Makenzie participated in the Living Stations of the Cross at her Catholic school of St. Anthony of Padua on the early afternoon of Maundy Thursday, April 14. She gave a

scintillating performance that shook the walls of the building.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY—Begins anew on Wednesday, May 18 on the Beatitudes,. As May Devotions take place at 7pm, please note for one week only, Bible Study on the 18th will be from 5:30pm-6:45pm.

NUC—The National United Choirs of the PNCC is meeting at St. Mary's this week-end. Rt. Rev. John Mack, of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese will celebrate Holy Mass on Saturday morning May 14 at 9am, which is open for anyone to attend. They will then be meeting in our hall for a few hours. Please keep all music ministers in prayer throughout this week, and consider attending 9am Mass Saturday.

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER—Our next fundraiser is Thursday, May 19, hosted by Applebee's on Rockside Rd. in Independence, about 5 minutes from the church. It runs from 11am to close, with the parish receiving back 15% of the check. Flyers are available near parish mailboxes.

MEMORIAL DAY—Services will take place at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th at 10am May 30 (if rain, 10:15am at St. Mary's)

MEN'S RETREAT—The 5th Annual Men's Retreat takes place June 15-18 at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA. We would love to have more men of St. Mary's in attendance, as our retreat has been growing yearly. The theme this year is "Devotion & Fellowship". The cost is \$125 per person and covers food, room, & board. See Fr. Jason if interested in attending.

TRUNK SALE/BAKE SALE—Is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, with a rain date 2 weeks later on June 4th. It will follow the same structure as prior trunk sales: you purchase a multiple parcel parking lot spot and can sell from your trunk and/or tables for a cost. Please speak to Susan Boehnlein if interested in participating. There will be a grill going as well, with Steve's Famous Burgers© flipped for you! Flyers are posted on Fr. Jason's office door and near parish mailboxes.

WORD OF GOD STUDY—The Western Diocese remains committed to honoring and dignifying the Sacrament of the Word of God throughout 2022. Beginning this Tuesday, May 10 at 8pm, the diocese offers its second section of study on the Acts of the Apostles, led by Fr. Jason & Deacon Jim. Each study is about an hour and available via Zoom, with the link available via email or by checking the newsletter or by asking Fr. Jason.

Mission and Evangelism Workshop

The Annual Mission and Evangelism Workshop of the PNCC took place at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI from April 1-3, 2022. Fr. Jason, Dcn. Jim, Susan Boehnlein, Patti Dotson, Brady Soltysiak and Barb Bogzevitz attended from St. Mary's.

This was the first workshop since 2019 and it was also the first big event hosted by our sister parish in Temperance. Fr. Jason was tasked with offering a presentation on "Living the Liturgical Year", which was done via powerpoint and pro-

vided some insight into the lesser-known areas of the Liturgical Year of the church. Our parishioners enjoyed the event, the food, the hospitality and the parish.

Twenty-First Annual
Mission & Evangelism
Workshop

BEING EUCHARISTIC
PEOPLE



Kielbasa Making

The famous St. Mary's Choir kielbasa sale returned for Easter 2022! After a period of sales, the choir and friends got together on the morning of Saturday, April 9 in order to prepare kielbasa and prepare orders in time for the Easter Season.



Church Property Clean-up

The (annual?) spring property clean-up was held on the Saturday after Easter, April 23rd, beginning at 10am. Cathy Avondet took the lead once again on putting together tasks at hand, providing bites to eat and cups to drink, and getting the information to the parish. The parish group was blessed to be joined by Boy Scout Troop #319 and family to do that type of grunt work that only teenage boys can do! Bóg Zapłać!



Palm Sunday & Holy Week

The Liturgy of the Palms, Procession, and Holy Mass of Palm Sunday took place on Sunday, April 10, kicking off Holy Week at St. Mary's. As always, this Mass is one that is spiritually moving, with those few differences that make it stand out from others. The Passion account of St. Luke was read aloud and in parts, procession included participation from the children of the parish, and palms were blessed and distributed to the faithful.

Fr. Jason then traveled to St. Mary's PNCC in South Bend, IN for the annual Mass of Chrism, held on Holy Tuesday, April 12.

The Holy Oils blessed that day were presented to the parish by Mrs. Susan Boehnlein, parish chair, at the Maundy Thursday Mass on April 14. Good Friday services were celebrated at 11am, 3pm, and 7pm. Holy Saturday featured an Easter Food blessing at Noon and a 3pm Liturgy of Holy Saturday.



Easter at St. Mary's

Easter 2022 was a wonderful and spiritual event, celebrating the ultimate moment of our faith, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Holy Mass was celebrated at 7am and 10am, with the procession of Resurrection taking place at 7am Mass.



Both Masses were attended by most of our parishioners, just about at a pre-pandemic level. God was glorified and His Son was praised. A breakfast reception

followed both Holy Masses, coordinated by Mrs. Natalie Soltysiak and with the help of a number of others.

The PTO worked with the Easter Bunny to prepare a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for the little (and not-so-little) kids who were in attendance. A truly joyous and positive Sunday morning.



New Acolyte and Lector

9am Holy Mass on Sunday, April 24 featured the installation of a new acolyte at St. Mary's as well as the first time reading for a new lector.

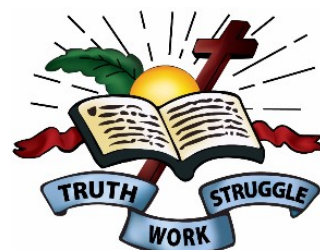
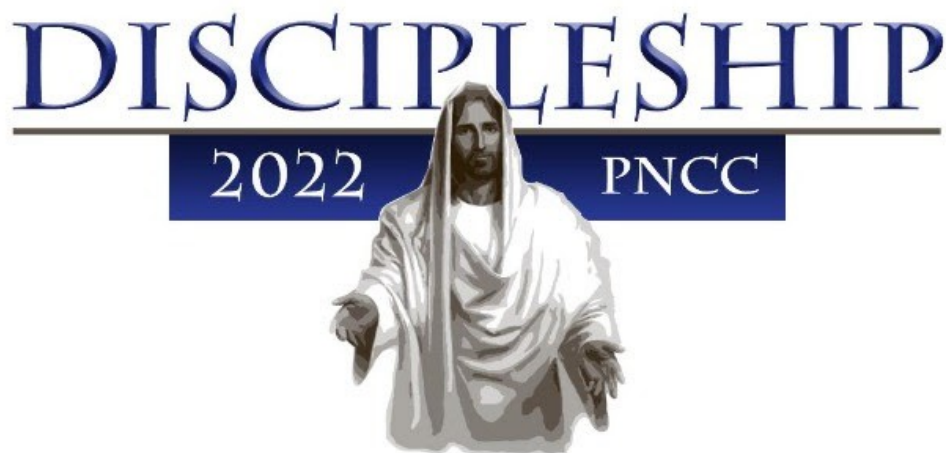
Young Nicholas, after a period of intense study of Damion and Makenzie, was brought forth to receive his surplice and begin his time of service before the Lord. His enthusiasm for this service has had an immediate impact on all those in the sanctuary!

Marzena, after training sessions which included the slamming of pew kneelers, coughing fits, and misplaced readings was more-than-prepared for her first time as a lector. She confidently proclaimed God's Holy Word, setting up that Gospel of Doubting Thomas with the readings from Acts & Revelation.

We look forward to the continued ministry of Nicholas & Marzena and hope that they may serve as an inspiration for others to serve our Lord in these ways.



PNCC Future Directions Update



April 2022 – Devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament

During the month of May we honor the Theotokos (The Mother of God – The Blessed Virgin Mary). We do this in part through the Liturgical Worship of the Church, one paraliturgical service we celebrate is May Devotions. The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

[Click Here for a short video reflection by Rev. Jason Soltysiak](#)

Scripture: John 6 (Bread of Life Discourse); Luke 1:36; John 1:14

Reflection & Action Items – The Blessed Virgin Mary gave her consent to God through the Archangel Gabriel: “Behold I am the servant of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word.” Then, “The word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Mary’s yes to God resulting in receiving Jesus into her heart, mind, body and soul and we receive Jesus in our hearts, minds, bodies and souls in receiving Holy Communion and adoring his presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

From the PNCC Prayer Book: Make our dear Lord in the Blessed Sacrament your constant thought; remember that He is your friend; tell Him all your sorrows; go often in the week, if only for a few minutes, to relieve your mind in trouble, and you will find that the hardest trials will seem to pass away in a moment. Go to Him always, you will wonder at the fullness of the comfort and support which you will receive, and at the clearness of the answers that will come in time of doubt. Place your cares into the hands of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and they will become light, very light.

Jesus, my God, I adore You, here present in the Sacrament of Your love.

Divine Redeemer, Who in Your infinite goodness has been pleased to give Your precious Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, I adore You with the most profound respect. I thank You for all the favors You have bestowed upon me, especially for the institution of this Most Holy Sacrament. As You are the source of every blessing, bestow Your benediction upon me, my relatives and friends. Bless my



PNCC Future Dir. (Con't)

Church, bishops, priests, deacons and all those for whom I pray (especially ...). Let Your blessing flow abundantly and may it be felt in the souls of those who cannot come here to receive it. May the weak and tempted feel its power wherever they may be. Let all feel its influence, moving them to come to You. O Lord, grant me a strong love of You, a hatred of sin, a greater respect of grace, and great zeal for your honor and glory and for my sanctification and salvation. Amen.

My Lord and my God!

Blessed and praised be the most holy and divine Sacrament now and forever. Amen!

Action Item: Offer this reflection from our PNCC Prayer Book weekly during this month giving reverence and respect to the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament .

Schedule: Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

PNCC Future Direction on Facebook. Like, follow and share our reflections on Facebook. If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at FutureDirection@pncc.org to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

May God bless you; may our Lord calm the storms of life, may our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph intercede for us and the people of Ukraine. Let us use the approaching Passiontide to draw ourselves closer to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and become more faithful as His disciples washing each other's feet!

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

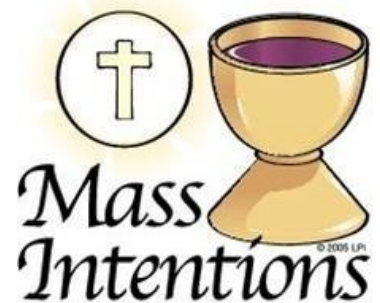
Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

May 1— Len Pryer (1st Anv.) of. by daughter Evonne
May 8— Ruth Dobrowolski of. by daughter Patti Dotson
May 15— Stanley & Yolanta Kwiatek of. by John Spilka
May 22— John P. Repko (51st Anv.) of. by daughter Cheryl Repko
May 29 – Dorothy Tracy of. by Randy Tracy

June 5— Joan Spilka (Wedding Anv.) of. by husband John
June 12 – Frank A. Kronen & Theresa A. Kronen of. by Frank W. Kronen
June 19— Gene Mora of. by daughter Cherie Kugler
June 26 – Departed and present members of the National United Choirs (NUC)

Please reach out to Fr. Jason to schedule Masses – Open 6 month upcoming dates:
August 14, 21, 28, Sep. 11, Sep 25, Oct. 16 & 23, Nov 6 & 27, Dec 11 & 18.



May Days of Note



May Birthdays

1st	– Marianne Viers (Misiewicz)
1st	– Bruce Toburen
2nd	– Tom Bedocs
2nd	– Pat Glatzer
6th	– Joshua Knapp
7th	– Sally Harper
9th	– Demi (Paulus) Bengston
9th	– Lolly Spilka
13th	– Debbie Moritz
13th	– Chuck Repede
15th	– George Zieffle
16th	– Adrienne Michalczyk
18th	– John Grmovsek
18th	– Jim Matteson
29th	– Andre Spanjol
30th	– Jo Ann Long
30th	– Audrey Spanjol

May Anniversaries

Someone plan a May wedding!

Word of God

Beginning May 10, 2022

"It Can Happen Today" Study

led by

Reverend Jason Soltysiak & Deacon James Ploskonka

Tuesday evenings

7:00 p.m. (central time)/8:00 p.m. (eastern time)

Invitation for WD Word of God Study
Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. (Central Time)
8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

May 10, 2022

WDD is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: WD Word of God Study

Join Zoom Meeting

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 810 5778 2317

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,81057782317# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81057782317# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 810 5778 2317

[Find your local number](#)

"Noel" A poem for Mary

Grim was the world and grey last night:
The moon and stars were fled,
The hall was dark without song or light,
The fires were fallen dead.
The wind in the trees was like to the sea,
And over the mountains' teeth
It whistled bitter-cold and free,
As a sword leapt from its sheath.

The lord of snows upreared his head;
His mantle long and pale
Upon the bitter blast was spread
And hung o'er hill and dale.
The world was blind, the boughs were bent,
All ways and paths were wild:
Then the veil of cloud apart was rent,
And here was born a Child.

The ancient dome of heaven sheer
Was pricked with distant light;
A star came shining white and clear
Alone above the night.
In the dale of dark in that hour of birth
One voice on a sudden sang:
Then all the bells in Heaven and Earth
Together at midnight rang.

Mary sang in this world below:
They heard her song arise
O'er mist and over mountain snow
To the walls of Paradise,
And the tongue of many bells was stirred
in Heaven's towers to ring
When the voice of mortal maid was heard,
That was mother of Heaven's King.

Glad is the world and fair this night
With stars about its head,
And the hall is filled with laughter and light,
And fires are burning red.
The bells of Paradise now ring
With bells of Christendom,
And Gloria, Gloria we will sing
That God on earth is come.

By JRR Tolkien (!)

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	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Julie L.
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Joseph Bischoff
David Micka	Carol Hreha
Chester Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	David Vaden
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Mike Matis
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
Fr. Tom Sheha	Tom Slomka
Geri S.	Ben Soltis
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Kelly B	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Wisniewski	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Claudette Lukas
Mike Pescitelli	Kathy Robertson
Mary Cawley	Richard & Edna Samelson
Jim Giles	Tammy Teubl
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Azriel G.	Joseph Zubel
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Shannon Alberino
Jayden Pieciak	Sophie Mae
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Kim Penney
Barbara B.	Patrick Kmitt
Michael McGivern	Daniel Morgan
Barb & Jim Lukas	Renee Lukas
Jeff Lukas	Sauna Smullen

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY

ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

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