

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2020

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Calling a Sinner

This past October, I was asked by Father Senior Rob Nemkovich to provide the November video message for the PNCC Future Directions program, which includes a theme, monthly prayer calendar, video message, scripture passages, reflection questions, and various updates. This Monthly update is part of a year-long plan (2020 is the Year of Discipleship, part 2) that is laid out at our PNCC General Synods, with a sub-committee filling out the details.

The video was on Matthew, and I pulled from nearly a years-worth of preaching on his Gospel as well as general knowledge I have of him. I recorded the video under a Thanksgiving banner in the nave (main part/large seating section) of the church and sent it in. And that was the end of the story!

Except...well, it wasn't. Something kept on gnawing at me that I didn't get to give Matthew his proper due in a three minute video- I wanted to re-research him more and tell you more about him.

Matthew's Feast Day is September 21 in the Catholic calendar. He was one of the original 12 Apostles and shares with John the special dual title "Apostle & Evangelist." Matthew means "gift of God"...which is a basic summary of how this gospel is written. Readers are to be disciples who have a desire to and will learn from this scripture.

There is a ton of discrepancy amongst

scripture scholars of when this book was actually written, by who "actually" put pen to paper to record this, what it used as source material, whether it was an eyewitness account and so on. Since screenshots on phones weren't a thing yet back then, our faith has to play a role in how we encounter holy scripture. If we feel that it is the inspired word of God, and if we have the records of saints and church apologists trusting the Apostle Matthew as the Evangelist...well, then that should be enough- I know it is so for me.

As most saints, the evangelists are often pictured holding something or wearing something to differentiate them from others... since, once again, technology didn't reign supreme then. He is



The Calling of St. Matthew

Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

often pictured holding a book when pictured with other apostles. When pictured with the other evangelists, he is depicted as an angel, while John is pictured as an eagle, Mark as a lion, and Luke as an ox. Matthew is pictured as an angel, or a "winged man", because of how his Gospel begins. The entire first chapter is about the genealogy and birth of Jesus Christ, His Divine Incarnation, the Word-made-flesh. An angel is often viewed as a "go-between" of sorts between heaven and earth- Matthew bridged that gap with his Gospel.

Two points of Matthew stuck out to me, which I touched on in the video I did: his life before Christ called him to be an apostle and how often we've heard from him in scripture in 2020.

Matthew wasn't the first person who was ministered-to by Christ in the Gospel that wasn't a com-

munity pariah. The first people he called as disciples were fishermen: not pariahs, but certainly not pillars of the town. After he sat and taught the Beatitudes, he cleansed a leper, healed a Roman soldier's servant, healed those possessed by demons, and a paralytic. I remind you that people often associated paralysis with a curse from God. After calling Matthew (the hated and notorious tax collector), he healed the bleeding woman, 2 blind men, and one who was mute. If I didn't know better, I would say God-on-earth was making a very clear and distinct point to those who were trying to decipher the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

The second part to touch on concerning Matthew is that we've heard from him often in 2020, this pandemic, often online year of attending Mass. It will be around 30 Sundays of Matthew's



a
Saint
is a
Sinner
who keeps
Trying

Matthew 26:75

gospel by the time we switch to the Advent season and give way to Mark's Gospel for most of the next months. We should have grown closer with how he portrayed Jesus, because, of course, his portrayal ultimately shapes ours.

Matthew is the patron saint of tax collectors, banker, bank tellers, and accountants. Prayers through his blessed name are often for financial advice or to remedy financial hardship.

Fr. Jason

Remember When?

A picture from 2003, taken as lectors were installed at St. Mary's. Hey, there are actually 2 priests in this photo! Do you recognize anyone else?



Blessing of Animals

The Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, fell on a Sunday this year. While a "minor feast" such as this doesn't overtake the scheduled Sunday (which was the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time), it did mean that it would be appropriate to have the Blessing of Animals on this day.

St. Mary's always strives to have the Animal Blessing on October 4th. As there was outdoor Mass at 9am on October 4, we invited



all animals to that Mass, with our first blessing to follow. It was wonderful to hear a few "arfs" and "woofs" at our outdoor call for a "sign of peace", which usually includes the honking of car horns. The animal blessing was well-attended by the toddlers of the parish, keeping the attending pets on edge.

The second Blessing of Animals took place at noon after the first Sunday Polish Mass. At noon, many from the surrounding community came to have their animals blessed. We were especially treat-

ed to a certain local greyhound, who made sure to...clean out...the Holy Water bucket. It brought a lot of chuckles and, since animals are sinless, this only made him (her?) more holy and pleasing in the sight of God!

Thanks to all who brought their feathered and furry friends for a blessing. Special thanks as well to our parish chairperson, Elaine Ploskonka, who made sure every kitty and doggie went home with a snack.



Oktoberfest at St. Mary's

On Friday, October 23, it was Oktoberfest at St. Mary's!

As the pandemic has continually forced our hand in how we reach out to the community as well as fundraise, we held our 6th unique drive-thru dinner. Along with our 2-day PolishFest, this was the 8th time we were running people through our parish parking lots for a meal!

The meal was delicious: a smoked kielbasa link, 3 deep fried pierogi, apple sauerkraut (a hit!), applesauce, a hot pretzel, delicious dipping cheese, as well as the chance to purchase a donut and cider for dessert. Accordion Bill (Zychowski), our trusty

parishioner, offered music on his accordion throughout the meal.

Thanks to Cathy Avondet and her crew of planners and helpers for this event. It was organized beautifully, the food was a hit and who knew deep fried pierogis dipped in cheese sauce were directly delivered from the Almighty Himself!



Simon (Peter)



Andrew



James



John



Philip



Thomas



Matthew



Thaddeus



James



Simon



Judas



Bartholomew

New Diocesan Bishop

Bishop Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko was formally installed as diocesan bishop of the Western Diocese on Saturday, October 3, 2020 by the Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Fr. Jason was unable to attend. Deacon Jim and wife Elaine made the trek to Chicago for the ceremony. Deacon Jim was called to serve as an MC (Master of Ceremony), providing the liturgy with the necessary help to make it run smoothly. As with Bishop's consecration the month prior, Covid-19 restrictions makes the flow of the liturgy a little more

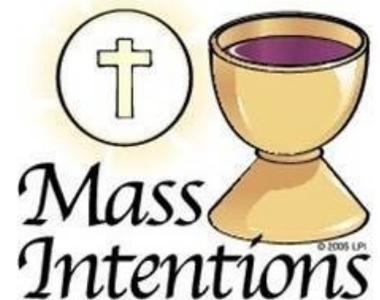
difficult, but the MC's helped the parish of All Saints pull it off wonderfully.

A celebratory dinner was held afterward for those in attendance. The event was broadcast live on All Saints Cathedral's Facebook page and is still there for viewership today. Congratulations to Bishop Jerry as he gets settled into his new role and we look forward to the future and his first official Episcopal visit to St. Mary's.



Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

- November 1— Paul & Loretta Kazinetz of. by family
- November 8— Mary Repasky & Irene D'Arcy of. by Mike & Carole D'Arcy
- November 15— Hanna Pryer of. by husband Len
- November 22— Ann Stepanik of. by son Gene
- November 29— Adolph & Helen Kasperczyk of. by son John & family
- December 6— Jack & Stella White of. by daughter Patty
- December 13— *Open Intention*
- December 20— Josephine Blatnik of. by the family (birthday in Heaven)
- December 27— *Open Intention*



From the Parish Chair...

Life as we used to know it, both personally and here in our parish home, has obviously been very different these past months for so many reasons (COVID, political, violence)! I'm sure we have all found it very difficult and challenging at times yet hopefully we have taken advantage of two very important things: A situation that made us slow down, giving us more time to focus on family, immediate and extended, whether in person or virtually; and more time to reflect on our faith and offer prayers to God for all we must be thankful for. That last one is something we may have a hard time with but must remember to continue doing - there are so many things!

Thank you to so many parishioners and friends of St. Mary's that have offered what has been necessary to keep the needs of our Parish met to the best of our ability including continued financial support, work at our fundraisers, participation of the fundraisers, and so important the continued prayers.

*THANKSGIVING is a time of praise
And thanks to God above
For all the good things He bestows
And for His boundless love.*

*THANKSGIVING is a time to share
The bounties we receive
With those who are less fortunate
And those who are in need.*

*THANKSGIVING is a time of joy,
A time to sing and pray;
It need not be just once a year,
But each and every day.*

*I wish all parishioners and friends and
Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!*

We all know how important it is to drink a lot of water but did you know.....

☞ 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated (this likely applies to half the world's population).

☞ In 37% of Americans, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger.

☞ Even MILD dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as much as 3%.

☞ One glass of water shut down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a

University of Washington study.

☞ Lack of water is the #1 trigger to daytime fatigue.

☞ Preliminary research indicates that 8 to 10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.

☞ A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math, and difficulty focusing on a computer screen or printed page.

☞ Drinking 5 glasses of water daily, decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, slashes the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

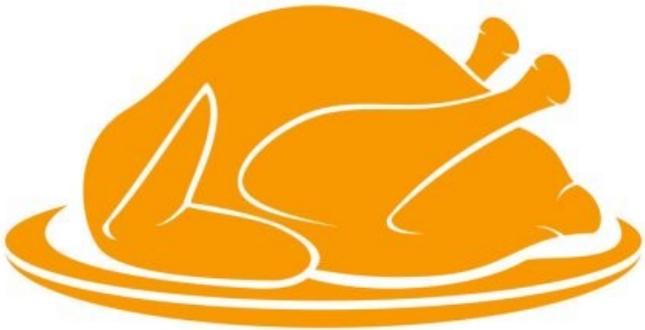


From our Parish Chair (Continued)

DRIVING MISHAP.....A state trooper pulled over a motorist, and the driver rolled down his window as the trooper came up. "You're driving without tail lights," said the trooper. The driver turned to look out the rear window and said "Omigod!" "Relax. This is just a warning." said the trooper. "But stop at the next town and get them fixed." "I'm not worried about that," said the driver. "I'm worried about what happened to my boat and trailer."

is cooked down. Add turkey meat, heat thoroughly and serve with short breads.

Taken from the pages of Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans





**LEFT-OVER ROAST TURKEY
Potrawa z Indyka Pieczonego**

- Turkey bones ¼ tsp. ginger
- 3 cups cold water 2 tsp. lemon juice
- Salt to taste Turkey meat
- ½ tsp. sugar

Cover bones with water, bring to boiling point. Add remaining ingredients with exception of meat and simmer until the flavor of the bones has been extracted and liquid

Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven, and grant that we who are filled with good things from Your open hand, may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

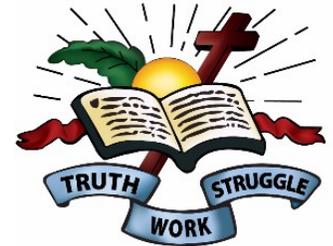
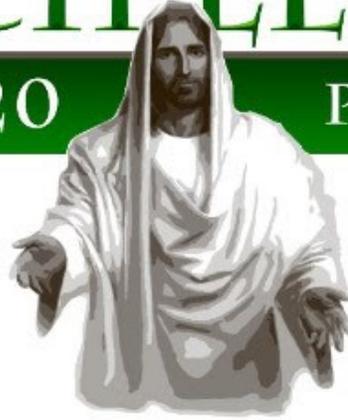
- from the abbey of New Clairvaux, Viña, California

elaine p. ploszanka

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2020 PNCC



November 2020 - Saint Matthew: Self-Discipline

As we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints and continue to pray for healing, health and love for our nation and the world; this month on our discipleship journey we focus on St. Matthew.

[Click Here to watch a short video message on St. Matthew by Fr. Jason Soltysiak](#) (or visit PNCC Future Direction on Youtube)

Scriptures for Reflection

Matthew 9:1-13, 10:1-41; Matthew 5:1-12, 25:31-46

Questions for Reflection:

When Jesus called Matthew the tax collector to follow Him, he did so despite what others said about him. Have you ever been the one to deem someone else unworthy of being a disciple of Jesus in some way? How can you overcome such perceptions and instead help strengthen others in their discipleship?

Name a few important "discipleship qualities" that St. Matthew demonstrates?

Which one would you personally like to better emulate?

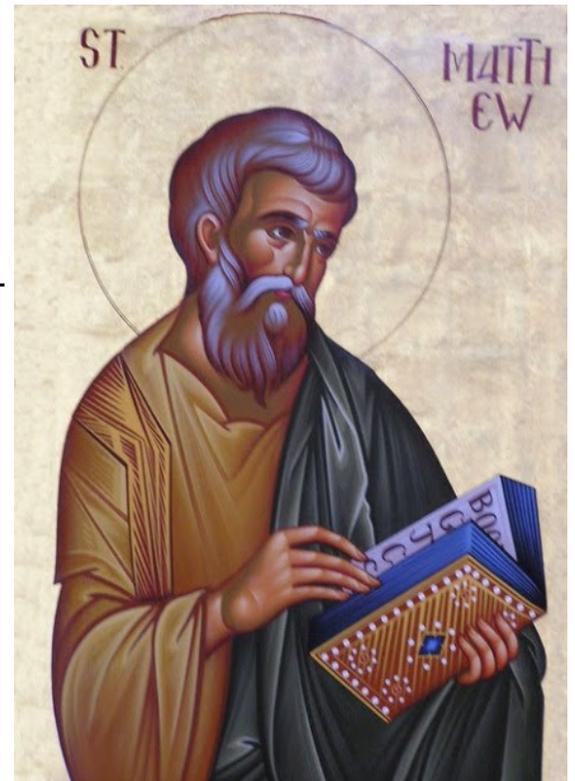
How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?

How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously?

Prayer in Time of National Anxiety

Let us pray.

I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation and our world. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength



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and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of all people. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of all people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

PNCC Future Direction is on Facebook! Like us and follow our updates on Facebook too. 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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Various Announcements

PHONES IN CHURCH

As we are still in the midst of this pandemic and adjusting to these temporary rules, please feel free to use your silenced phone to follow along with Mass at church. Much of the prayers, readings, etc. are sent out before Sunday Mass, giving you the option to print or read from your phone.

EMAIL LIST - NEWSLETTERS

As Covid-19 restrictions continue, we are reaching out to the congregation to perhaps, once again, save the church a few bucks each month. We have an email list that we are always trying to keep current- if you would rather receive your monthly newsletter digitally, and forgo the printed or mailed copy, please let us know and we will make it happen!

DO YOU SHOP AT ACME?

St. Mary's recently signed up for Acme's Community Cash back program. From now until December 26, please place any receipt from ACME that includes any ACME brands in the parish collection bin – we will receive 5% back from each item purchased! A "tiny-effort" fundraiser for our parish. It applies to any local ACME.

CHURCH WIFI

The wi-fi has been updated and is available in certain new spots around the facility. It is "St. Mary's Guest" and the password is: 11111111.

HOLIDAY KOLACZKI

Church-made kolaczki are available to order now, with pickup on Sunday, November 22 from 11am-1pm. Each container contains 24 assorted flavored kolaczki, with your choice for baked or unbaked at a cost of \$14 per container. If interested, call/text Patti 216-801-1063 or Susan 440-781-7912. You may also order now for Christmas Kolaczki.

TO-GO COFFEE HOUR

Please continue to support our to-go coffee hours at church. They are sponsored by the Love of God Sodality, and they support the upkeep of much of what comes in and out of our beautiful sanctuary at church.

RESCHEDULED INVESTITURE

The investiture of Very Rev. John Kowalczyk as the Senior of the North-Central Seniorate of the Western Diocese took place last Sunday. Deacon Jim travelled and assisted in the liturgy. God bless Father Senior in his updated role in serving God's holy church.

CLOTHING DRIVE

The National United YMSofR once again is holding a clothing drive across the entirety of the PNCC. Parishes will collect all sorts of new and previously-loved clothing and tabulate what was collected at the end of the drive. Clothing will be donated locally – a box will

be set up to donate clothes in the near future at St. Mary's.

OPERATION: CHRISTMAS CHILD

A reminder- boxes filled with gifts, school supplies, etc. & assembled by age/gender and delivered to a child in need somewhere in the world. \$9 must be included with each box, or a \$9 donation can be made sans box. Boxes are available in the Fellowship Hall. The pick-up week will be November 16-23, so please plan to fill them before then!

ALL SOULS

All Souls remembrances continue to be prayed-for through Sunday, November 22 to open Sunday Mass. Envelopes are available around the church for you to fill out and remember your loved ones. They then can be dropped in the collection basket, given in the board room or to Fr. Jason.

FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE

Food Ministry has been updated to begin at 4pm as the clocks have fallen back. On November 4, 71 meals were served. As our ministry has grown, we look to supplant it a bit- when we have our Advent Food collection, we will keep some of it "in-house". We provide this type of food on the occasion when we run out of prepared food on a Food Ministry day. Please consider donating food to our parish to support this selfless ministry.

November Days of Note



November

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1 | - | Brady Soltysiak |
| 5 | - | Ron Ference |
| 6 | - | Alice Petrie |
| 7 | - | Kathleen Beres |
| 7 | - | Mike Wisniewski |
| 11 | - | Mike Matis |
| 15 | - | Mary Ann Loschelder |
| 16 | - | Craig Atherton |
| 16 | - | Mike Paulus |
| 18 | - | Eileen Kasperczyk |
| 19 | - | Bill Glatzer |
| 21 | - | Krista O'Connor |
| 22 | - | Josephine Ference |
| 24 | - | Jeff Dreger |
| 25 | - | Michael Petrie |
| 27 | - | Vicente Suarez |
| 29 | - | Barb Baranowski |
| 29 | - | Eliza Dreger |



November

| | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 5 | Vicente & Alison Suarez |
| 9 | Marty & Sue Bengela |
| 28 | Dale & Patti Dotson |

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YouTube Channel

"We Give Thanks"

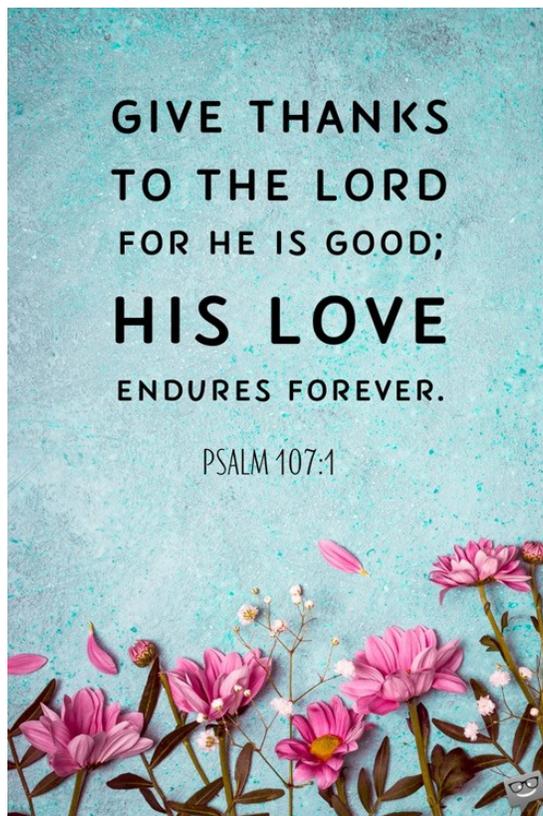
*We give thanks to you, O Lord,
For what you've blessed us with
The abundance of the blessings
From heaven that you give*

*For we have all received from you
The abundance from your hand
In many varied and different ways,
You've blessed us in this land*

*We only need to look around
At what you, Lord, have given,
To see the many blessings we have
And see your full provision*

*So, Lord, to you we give our thanks
With full and grateful hearts,
The blessing of family, friends and
love
And just for who you are.*

M.S. Lowndes



Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer | Barbara Baranowski |
| Bill Kastak | Anna Dawidziuk |
| Craig Atherton | John Spilka |
| Johanna Markiewicz | Mary Ann Loschelder |
| Ralph & June Zaun | Len Pryer |
| Marty Bengela | Tom Putynski |
| Polly Gajda | Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Louise Cygan |
| David Micka | Carol Hreha |
| Chester & Ann Warzala | Tom Petrie |
| Amy Dreger | Patti Dotson |
| Elizabeth Starnawski | Jack Spilka |
| Elaine Repede | John Radon |
| Wanda Clark | Beth Chihill |
| Michael Cosevin | Helen Cummings |
| Laina Dachtal | Wendy Andrzejewski |
| Jay Grabowsky | Pam Chesar |
| Cecelia Hall | Caroline Kunes |
| Linda Marks | Thomas Lill |
| John & Anne Nemetz | Rhonda Smith |
| Emma Freshwater | Carol Boesch |
| Joanie True | Daniel Rinella |
| Fr. Tom Sheha | Tom Slomka |
| Geri S. | Ben Soltesy |
| Pam Tropiano | Linda Vect |
| Dennis and Sue Vect | Marcus Vaughn, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzurhoff | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Kelly B | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Michalczyk | Cathy Pieciak |
| Nan Cramer | Bp. John Mack- |
| David Vaden | Bp. John Swantek |
| Mary Cawley | Richard & Edna Samelson |
| Jim Giles | Tammy Teubl |
| Wanda Heffner | Loretta Baldwin |
| Donna Kidd | Paulette Lilli |
| Anthony Grad | Azriel G. |
| Marilyn Girard | Courtney Austin |
| Stephanie Milla | Shannon Alberino |
| Jayden Pieciak | Baby Layla |
| Jeremy Steinbrick | Katie Stallbaum |
| Marcia Klein | Kim Penney |
| George & Linda Makovicka | Julie L. |
| Barbara B. | Patrick Kmitt |
| Michael McGivern | Daniel Morgan |
| Barb & Jim Lucas | Renee Lucas |

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