

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

July 2019

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To Celebrate...

As I sit to write this, the clock is ticking down towards the 4th of July, I got back from taking my son through the grocery store, and everyone's carts were full of chips, beer, grillin' meats, and corn on the cob.

And then there are the fireworks- It is a kind of strange tradition, the 4th of July. On the day our nation honors its independence from a tyrannical overseer, we celebrate by blowing up small portions of it. On the day we declared independence in 1776...we sit around, eat too much, drink too much, and blow off some of our early-summer steam.

If you think I'm going to curmudgeon you and tell you why this stinks or why the church doesn't condone it...I couldn't dream of it! We should celebrate stuff – we don't celebrate



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enough. Our parish's sub-deacon has often stated the church should spend more time in celebration, that our parish itself should celebrate the successes we have, not just lament on our mis-directions.

Sub-Deacon Jim is right! And I know he won't read this, so don't tell him! The church is set up to have a number of days set aside for joy- they have great names: Solemnities and Feasts. We even call it the "Celebration" of Holy Mass. "Joy" is common for us to speak in the weeks after Christmas and Easter, and we say the word "alleluia" at a minimum of 6 times at most Holy Masses. You know what alleluia means? "God be praised!"

Praise...joy...celebrations...feasts... Although, not always the things we think about when we think of church, sometimes we do hit the nail on the head, and church is absolutely one of those weekly life events that leaves you filled, fulfilled, and ready to take on your week.

In my years of ministry, I've spo-

ken to enough people that can remember when their week revolved around the Sunday celebration at church. Different branches of the family would come together, fill a number of the pews in church, and then go to grampa & gramma's house after for lunch – the adults would kibitz for hours while the children played the afternoon away.

I mean...that right there, minus the fireworks, is what we reserve for those "other" days off from work that we get. To some these days, it seems unfathomable that people would go through the rigamaroo of getting together as a family with specially prepared food and a quarter of the day blocked off from the rest of life's obligations. Yet, that very scenario is in the history of many of our families. I can beat the old drum and write why this isn't the case anymore, but everyone knows. That is why its great to take the time to celebrate days



Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

like our nation's independence- we simply don't do things like that enough. We wait for birthdays, Christmas, Easter...and that sort of is it.

As reserved as they are, I love our parish potlucks- sometimes there is a bit of an agenda attached to

the food being served...and sometimes, it is just taking extra time on a Sunday morning to be together, to sit in different spots, and to let down the guard a bit – to celebrate!

We have a number of goals splayed out for the rest of 2019. Our semi-annual meeting back in June detailed

those goals and our reality of being able to attain them. You better believe that when we reach those goals, they will be cause to celebrate here at St. Mary's. Maybe we'll even blow up a bit of the place with fireworks!

No? Maybe a picnic or something then!
Fr. Jason

Other June Events

We were blessed during the month of June to have the Father's Day Brunch after the 9am Holy Mass on Trinity Sunday, June 16.

This was sponsored by the PTO and featured a delightful menu of breakfast foods, as well as candy bars to either eat or take home. Many thanks to everyone who provided for this breakfast.

After the Corpus Christi Mass and Procession on June 23, the parish met for a semi-annual meeting.

This halfway-through-the-year meeting was to provide an update on parish fundraisers, a re-addressing of parish goals, to see if any issues needed tending to, and to look at the plan for the rest of 2019.

There was no 11am Mass that day, and the meeting was to run into lunchtime, so the parish was treated not only to its regular delicious post-Mass cake and coffee, but to a "make your own sandwich" bar, replete with roast beef, turkey, ham, lettuce, onion, tomatoes, bread, rolls and more.

Many thanks to all who made sure we were sustained throughout the exciting meeting.



SEMI-ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING



Solemnity of Corpus Christi

The Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi fell on June 23, a beautiful and warm early-summer morning.

Since our garage renovations of late 2017, we have been enabled to encircle our parish plant in procession. Last year was our first go-round, and we were well-planned again this year.

Members of the Love of God Sodality prepare tables outside before 9am Mass as altars for the temporary reposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. They were placed at the approximate corners of the church building.

On this Holy Day, Mass was celebrated by Father Jason and Father Greg, with Sub-Deacon Jim serving as Sub-Deacon. Fr. Greg had the opportunity to read the poetic "Corpus Christi Sequence" before the proclamation of the Holy Gospel, one of his favorites.

Following the Post-Communion prayer during Mass, Fr. Jason removed the Sacrament from the Tabernacle and intoned the benediction. Fr. Greg orga-

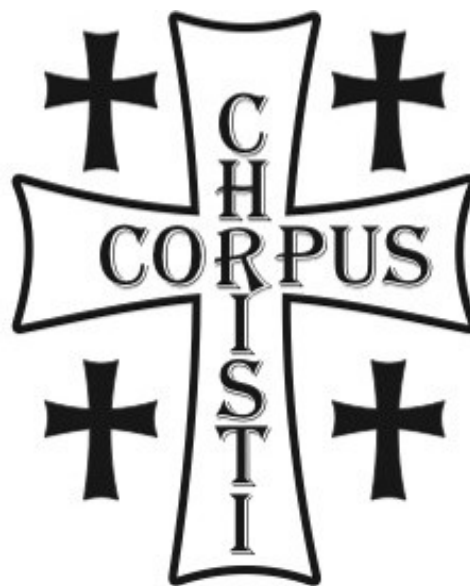
nized the procession, led by crucifer Chuck Repede, followed by members of the Sodality, the entire congregation, the choir, and then the thurifer, Sub-Deacon Jim and Fr. Jason with the Blessed Sacrament.

At each altar, the Gospel was proclaimed by either Father Greg or Father Jason. Then, the congregation was blessed with the True Presence of Christ in the Sacra-

ment.

The procession wound its way back into church, and concluded with the final blessing with the Sacrament.

It was a refreshing departure from our normal Sunday celebration that earned a number of positive reviews from our worshippers.



Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry

Portions of the Love of God Sodality and the Mission Team joined forces to put together prayer shawls for our

parish's ministry.

The fabric is prepared by the Repede family and then the group was called in to

combine the fabrics, tying them along the ends in a skillful and prayerful way.

Once prepared, the shawls are given to Father Jason, who keeps them until one is requested. We are happy to provide a prayer shawl to anyone—not just parishioners or family members of parishioners. In fact, the reason for this workshop was that we have blessed and given away so many in 2019!

Once requested, the shawls are brought forth before the congregation, either during Mass or afterward, in the Fellowship Hall. After reciting the recipients name, Fr. Jason will pray a select prayer, offer a blessing with Holy Water, and lay his hands upon it with the intentions of healing, patience, and strength. All present are then called forward to do the same, all praying and laying on of hands.



National Bowling Tournament

The 74th Annual PNCC/YMSofR Bowling Tournament was hosted by St. Joseph's Parish in Stratford, CT on the weekend of June 7-9, 2019.

The layout of the hotel, church, and bowling alley was perfect, as nothing was more than a twelve minute drive away.

Fr. Jason was our lone representative, as a sick baby kept his wife Natalie from attending and bowling. Here, Father is pictured with his baby brother Nicholas a rare picture in

which no punches, pinches, or hand-drills are being exchanged.

Father bowled in a manner worthy of representing our beloved St. Mary's, but left with no trophy, no medal, no prize—just a sore back.

Next year's tournament will be held in the Buffalo, NY area, hosted by the Lancaster Cathedral Parish. We look forward to a much larger representation of our bowling leaguer present at this 75th Tournament.



Various Announcements

CONGRATS—Jessica Moritz graduated from Bowling Green State University on May 18th with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a minor in Psychology. Outside of classes she was an active member of the Kappa Delta sorority, participating in numerous charity events. She also worked as a Starbuck's barista & daycare infant specialist. Jessica recently completed a very fulfilling internship with the Swanton Area Community Coalition where she worked with youth and parents teaching about substance abuse prevention via fun events she organized. She also researched grants, ran social media campaigns and coordinated with Toledo area prevention organizations and coalitions. Jessica will be attending graduate school at Case Western Reserve University in the fall. She was accepted to the Master of Science in Social Administration and Master of Nonprofit Organizations dual degree program at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. She will also be actively participating in social field education work, an integral part of the Mandel curriculum. Jessica is the

daughter of Pete & Debbie Moritz and the granddaughter of Bill & Joan Kastak.

CLOSING OF SOCL - Closing exercises for School of Christian Living took place on Sunday, May 19. Our children were recognized for their year of study and growth in our Lord and our teachers honored for their sacrifice of time for the building up of our kids. Thank you! Bog Zaplac!

TRUNK SALE – St. Mary's is hosting a "Trunk Sale" on our parish parking lot on Saturday, July 13. Information is posted on the flyers in the Fellowship Hall- in short, we are offering parking spaces to the church (and community) to sell their wares- a communal "garage" sale. Please see Sue Boehnlein for more information or to reserve a spot.

NURSERY HELP – As the calendar is changing towards summer, we are looking for input on how to staff the nursery room during Sunday 9am Mass. We are asking for adult volunteers to help out the mothers on a weekly basis – see Fr. Jason.

10th ANNUAL DINNER AND A CAR SHOW – The BIG ONE- #10! is sched-

uled for Saturday, August 3rd on the parish grounds. Please note that there will also be a Saturday afternoon Mass that day. If you have any questions about the event, please see Steve Fesz.

TEXAS ROADHOUSE– On Tuesday, July 16, we will be holding our 3rd of 4 restaurant fundraisers of 2019 at the Texas Roadhouse in Ridge Park Square. The event runs from 4-8pm and, get this, we get to have a bake sale and a basket raffle for everyone! Please plan on preparing some baked goods! Also, please stop by the Board Room for basket raffle ideas to bring in- items collected will be used at this raffle or, if left over, for the PolishFest in September.

HOME VISITATIONS – If anyone knows a parishioner or family member that would like a clergy visit, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Jason to arrange a visit in the near future.

PIEROGI MAKING – Will be Saturday morning, July 27. We will be making all three flavors, prepping for the 10th Annual Car Show.

July Days of Note



July

- 4th – Jolanta Misiewicz
- 16th – Chris Paulus
- 21st – Father Jason
- 22nd – Sara Long
- 24th – Jennifer LeMessina
- 25th – Martha Repede
- 25th – Chester Warzala
- 27th – Joan Kastak
- 30th – Barbara Fesz



- 14th — John & Andrea Grmovsek
- 15th — Nate & Amanda Ploskonka
- 20th — Michael & Carole D'Arcy
- 21st — Jim & Elaine Ploskonka
- 27th — Mike & Chris Paulus



"Freedom Rings"



Freedom Rings

There Has Been a Lot Said
About the Power of Prayer,
But It's Against the Law
In Public Everywhere.

What Is it We Have Come To,
Taking this Freedom Away?
I Thought Freedom of Religion
Was Something Here to Stay.

And Now the Pledge to the Flag
Has It's Life on the Line,
Because God's Name Is Men-
tioned,
But How Can this Be a Crime?

We Fought and Died for Free-
dom,
But I'm Asking a Simple Thing.
How Much of it Do We Give Up,
Before Freedom Has No Ring?

We Are One Nation under God,
He Is Always There.
And If We Stand Together,
There Will Always Be a Prayer.

By Connie Moore

Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan 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
Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	Marlane Oleniacz

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Sharon Seitz
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Mark & Kim Andreas	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Rhonda Smith
Rose Neyman	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
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Bill Hinton
Nan Cramer	Rose Petrosky
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Mary Cawley
Richard & Edna Samelson	Jim Giles
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Muffie B.	Azriel G.
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Julia Badarzynski
George & Linda Makovicka	Julie L.
Kelly B	Barbara B.
Michael McGivern	Sylvia Kowalski
Daniel Morgan	Emma Freshwater

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org

A note from your parish chair.....

YOU'RE INVITED!

THE SUMMER is moving along at a much faster pace than most of us would like and it's putting us at the time where our two biggest fundraisers are in the forefront; Dinner & A Car Show and PolishFest. As a special side note we recognize that Steve and the Fesz Family crew are putting on the **10th** Annual Car Show!! Talk about time flying fast! So back to what may have brought you to read these words.... *You're Invited.*

All of you reading this newsletter, whether parishioner or friend, are invited to pitch in with what is needed to make these events successful. We are starting with the first of our pierogi making sessions on July 27th. What will follow will be more pierogi making, set-up and clean-up of events, distribution of PolishFest advertisement, a request for donations for the basket raffle or bake sale, and this lists just a few.

PLEASE keep an eye out for information in Sunday bulletins and emails and an ear on Sunday announcements to learn about how you can help! As I have said *many times* this parish belongs to all of us and it is our responsibility to take care of it just as we do our own families and homes both spiritually and financially. If you have any questions about how you can help please reach out to me or Fr. Jason.

p.s. Hope to see you our next upcoming restaurant fundraiser July 16th at Texas Roadhouse.

EVALUATION

For those of you that attended the semi-annual parish meeting on June 23, first of all Thank You, and second you will recall that an Evaluation Sheet was handed out for everyone to complete. It was hopeful that everyone would have turned it in that day but unfortunately that wasn't the case, a very small amount were collected. It's not too late to return them and if you didn't get one you will see that there is one included in this Newsletter. I won't explain what it's about as you can see that by reading the form. What I will ask is that you take the time to complete it and be truly honest in your answers.

It is important to take time to look at what we do in our lives, both personal and at St. Mary's, and evaluate if we are doing everything we can to be continually moving forward in a positive and beneficial direction. I must say that there is a reason I made the first question about the parish chair - I honestly want to know how I'm doing. As I said it's important to take time to look at what we are doing in our lives and you can help me personally check that area of my life.

The remaining questions will obviously be of help to parish life as well. Feel free to put your name on the form or turn it in anonymously. They can be put in an envelope marked Evaluation Form and dropped in the box in the Fellowship Hall marked the same. Thank You!

"Toss Away the Could Haves and Should Haves Day" - July 17th



Martha Ross-Rodgers is an advocate of throwing out the "excess mental baggage" many of us carry around. "If you have made mistakes or bad choices," she notes, "then you are only part of the human race."

Ross-Rodgers says that July 17th is a day to write down your personal list of "could haves" and "should haves," and then throw the list in the trash. Or stomp on it. Or burn it in a campfire. LET IT GO and move on.

To many of us are still hoping yesterday will get better. Instead, says Ross-Rodgers, choose to live in the present, remembering only that the past has contributed to the richly experienced human being you now are.

Things That Make You Think And Laugh...



If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches?

Since bread is square, then why is sandwich meat round?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in", but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"?

Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

If a 911 operator has a heart attack, whom does he/she call?

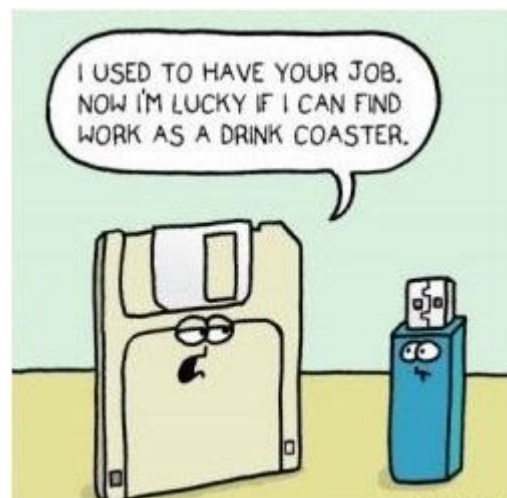
If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs.

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride; he sticks his head out the window?

Returning home from work, a blonde was shocked to find her house ransacked and burglarized. She telephoned the police at once and reported the terrible crime. The police dispatcher broadcast the call on the radio and a K-9 unit, patrolling nearby, was the first to respond. As the K-9 officer approached the house with his dog on a leash, the blonde ran out on the porch, shuddered at the sight of the cop and his dog, then sat down on the steps. Putting her face in her hands, she moaned, "I come home to find all my possessions stolen. I call the police for help, and what do they do? They send me a BLIND policeman."



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EVALUATION SHEET

The purpose of this evaluation form is to review what is being done well and what areas of improvement may be necessary for the good of our parish. Please complete the following questions. Including your name on this form is optional.

How is the Parish Chair doing?

Doing a good job ____ Needs improvement ____

Comments _____

How is the Parish Committee doing?

Doing a good job ____ Needs improvement ____

Comments _____

How do you feel the Parish is doing? Are there things to improve on?

Comments _____

Is there anything you would like additional information on or a better understanding of?

Comments _____

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What would you like to see added to parish life?

additional bible studies

bus trips

senior activities

Evangelism/Outreach

Childcare

Kids day

Summer bible school

golf outing

basketball

pet pantry

game night

fishing

activities with local churches

skiing

Other:

Comments _____

Please feel free to comment on anything you would like to add that was not covered on this form.

Comments _____

Name (optional) _____