

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

April 2024

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Holy Week and Easter 2024



The most intense prayer of the Church year takes place during the swell of liturgies that conclude the Lenten season. After a little snafu with the availability of our Palms before Holy Week began, we enjoyed an abundance of palms for our people. Fr. Jason celebrated the Liturgy of the Palms and con-celebrated Holy Mass with Fr. Greg, who led our Passion narrative.



Secretary Pattie Dotson presented them on behalf of the parishioners of St. Mary's to be placed in our sanctuary ambry, recently installed by the good people at T & C Church Solutions. Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg concelebrated Holy Mass, which featured the bell-filled Gloria, the Mandatum (washing of feet), the procession into darkness/altar of repose and the ceremonial stripping of the altars.

Three separate liturgies were held on Good Friday. The first was the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified, the only one required by the Church. Fr. Greg led



On Holy Tuesday, Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg drove to Holy Cross PNCC in Hamtramck, MI to participate in the Liturgy of Chrism Mass. Fr. Greg was a con-celebrant with diocesan clergy and with the Prime Bishop of the PNCC while Fr. Jason (along with Fr. Jim) served as Masters of Ceremony.

Holy Thursday featured the reception of the Holy Oils. Parish Financial



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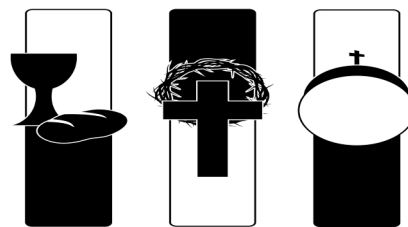
this, with Fr. Jason assisting. The second liturgy was Stations of the Cross and opening of the tomb. Thank you to the volunteers who carried the statue of the body of the crucified Christ at the 14th Station "Jesus is Laid in the Tomb." Fr. Jason offered a short sermon to conclude this liturgy. The final liturgy of the day was Tenebrae, in which Fr. Jason and Bill Zychowski offered through chant. Fr. Greg and Chuck Repede took care of the liturgical candles, and Fr. Greg offered a sermon to conclude the evening.



Holy Saturday's commemoration began with people coming in to pick up their kolaczki orders (thank you to all the dedicated bakers and packers) and a noon-time blessing of Easter food. At 3pm, the complicated Holy Saturday liturgy was celebrated. Thank you



to Dale Dotson for tending to the fire and to the children who made sure the New Fire and the Holy



TRIDUUM

Water were blessed perfectly! Four parish families were asked to fill the four Holy Water stoups around the church as well. An Easter food blessing concluded this service, and many volunteers stayed to help change the church over from Passiontide to the joy of the Resurrection.



With all sorts of glory, Easter was celebrated with the light of the New Fire welcoming all to a dark St. Mary's church. At 7am sharp, procession was formed with our three mighty symbol-bearers and at the sung words "Come Rejoice the Lord is Risen!", the lights in the church turned on and we began our three encircling stops to the four corners of the church.

Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg concelebrated both the 7am and the 10am Mass, with Fr. Jason preaching on "in medias res", or how we begin our Christian faith by knowing the end of the story – Christ's Resurrection.



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We were also called to think about the last time each of us actually ran as fast as we could for any reason- it was a half-century for some!

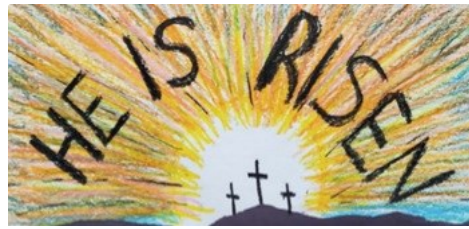
A reception followed both Holy Masses, organized by many helpful parishioners who also offered many dishes to share. It featured ham, smoked & fresh kielbasa, cold cut rolls, rye & pascha bread, horse-radish, deviled (anged) eggs, fresh fruit, angel wings, brownies, cookies, and a host of other desserts and other items.

St. Mary's also happened to be on the path of the visiting Easter Bunny, who prepared an egg hunt that thrilled the children from underage to college age!

Sincere thanks to everyone who took advantage of what the Church offered during Holy Week. From

prayer to preparation, to anyone who offered an item for the reception, prepped the Easter Egg Hunt, the sanctuary, outdoors, welcomed guests, tended to flowers, organized procession...the list goes on! But the most special thanks goes out to those who simply stayed and continued to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with joy that continues even after the final blessing is imparted at Holy Mass.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



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Parish Lenten Retreat

On Sunday, March 3, at the request of the parishioners of St. Mary's, a Lenten mini-retreat was held at St. Mary's on the 3rd Sunday of Lent. The theme was "Focused on the Cross" and Fr. Greg, Fr. Jim, and Fr. Jason all presented for the good of the people.

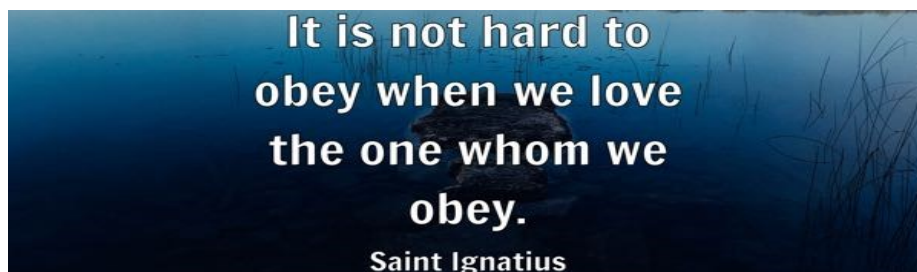
Fr. Greg opened with a comparison between the words and actions of portions of the movie "Jesus Christ Superstar" and how closely it does or does not correspond to actual scripture. He included snippets of the movie to enliven his point.



Fr. Jim then presented "Proof that Jesus Christ Rose from the Dead" by systematically disproving all of the theories that exist against Jesus' resurrection. His evidence, combined with the faith of those present, led to a hearty round of applause for the presentation given and boost of faith received.

Fr. Jason then presented on the Seven Words of Christ from the Cross, showing them via PowerPoint along with pictures snippets of the Old Testament scripture that supported or inspired said words.

The mini-retreat was sincerely enjoyed by those present...and a summer retreat was requested in the same manner for the clergy to prepare again!



Roll Away the Stone of Hunger Food Drive

St Mary's PNCC, Parma, OH participated in Council 305 of the Polish National Alliance month long Lenten Food Drive to assist a local community food pantry. The theme of the food drive was "Roll Away the Stone of Hunger," and started Ash Wednesday and concluded on Passion Sunday. The photo above shows only a small portion of the total amount of canned and dry goods that were donated. Approximately 25 additional cases of canned goods and food products were collected in this year's Food Drive: more than five times the previous year's collection! St Mary's Parish, under the direction of Rev. Dr. James Ploskonka and YMS of R Branch 29, has sponsored a food ministry program for over 10 years providing a weekly meal program averaging 85-100 meals per week for hungry families in the neighborhood. Since its inception, St Mary's Food Ministry has served over 23,000 meals to those in need. The balance of the food and groceries collected during the PNA Food Drive is to be donated to Parma's local Community Food Pantry as well as to be used for our Food Ministry. John Spilka is the President and Michael Wisniewski is interim Secretary of Lodge P112.



John Spilka, President of Lodge P112, Council 305, PNA and Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Pastor of St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church, Parma, OH.

Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate

The Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate took place on Saturday, March 16 at Resurrection Polish National Catholic Church in Temperance, MI. Attending from St. Mary's were: Fr. Jason, Fr. Jim, Brady, Elaine, Mark, Bruce, Barb, Elaine, Chuck, Martha, and Katie.

The title of the retreat was "LEnT: Love Everyone iN Truth". Fr. Sr. Nowak, Administrative Senior, gave the welcome and the opening session on "Love", which highlighted aspects of Love in scripture and beyond in a well put-together PowerPoint presentation. Fr. Jim presented on "Everyone" next, which highlighted the scope of God's

creation as well as shining the light on some recent statistics in Christianity.

Fr. Jason presented on "Truth", focusing on the question that Pontius Pilate posed, "what is truth?", ultimately focusing on how scripture reveals Jesus, our Savior, as truth. Fr. Sr. Charles Zawistowski, administrator of the Western Diocese of the PNCC and pastor of St. Mary's in South Bend, IN, was in attendance with his wife Susan and after a brief catechesis, imparted the Sacrament of Penance for all in attendance.

Fr. Henryk Galas, administrator of Our Savior in Dearborn Hts, MI, offered the blessing on lunch before we broke for the day. A delicious luncheon of cold cuts and all sorts of

accoutrements was served to all those in attendance from each parish from the Seniorate.



Pierogi Making & Pierogi Dinner #2

Pierogi making for the Lenten season and the 2nd Pierogi Dinner took place on Tuesday, March 12. A very nice mid-week crowd came to the downstairs hall and kitchen to ball, roll, cut, pinch, double pinch, boil, separate, and package pierogi to freeze and prepare at the dinner a few days away.

Our second dinner of the Lenten Season was held on Friday, March 15 from 4-6pm. It featured deep fried and sauteed pierogi, soup, coleslaw, and dessert. The dinner was heartily enjoyed by all who attended. Many came for evening Lenten Devotions at the conclusion of the dinner.

Many thanks to everyone who chipped in at either or both of the pierogi preparation, the dinner, or subsequent pierogi sale.



Honoring Saint Joseph

On Sunday, March 17, St. Mary's held a St. Joseph's Day celebration in anticipation of his March 19th Solemnity. The first portion of the celebration was a simple procession to his side altar, located on the epistle side of the sanctuary of the church.

Flowers were processed in to the church by the Bennett family and given to John Spilka, our eldest male parishioner. He offered them on behalf of the parish to Fr. Jason, who laid them upon St. Joseph's altar and offered a prayer, regarding his guardianship of our Lord and Savior. Flowers were also placed upon the statue of

Joseph the Workman in the rear, gospel-side of the church.

The second portion of the celebration was a sponsored coffee hour. Worshippers were greeted by the loving blow-mold of Joseph on their way to the Fellowship Hall, where a prayer was given and food was shared.

Thank you to all who helped prepare this morning of recognition of a portion of the Holy Family as we continued upon our Lenten path.



Parish Lenten Devotions

Day 1: Palm Sunday

Jesus enters Jerusalem and is welcomed by the crowds waving palm branches.
(Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19)

Day 3: Holy Tuesday

Jesus evades ambush, gives Olivet discourse.
(Matthew 21:23-24:51, Mark 11:20-13:37, Luke 20:1-21:36, and John 12:20-38)

Day 5: Maundy Thursday

Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.
(Matthew 26:17-75, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-62, and John 13:1-38)

Day 7: Black Saturday

Jesus' body lays in the tomb and is treated for burial; disciples come out of hiding and mourn openly.
(Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56, and John 19:40)

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Day 2: Holy Monday

Jesus curses the fruitless fig tree, enters the temple and clears out the corrupted money changers.
(Matthew 21:12-22, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-48, and John 2:13-17)

Day 4: Spy Wednesday

Jesus and disciples rest in Bethany. Judas agrees to betray Jesus.
(Matthew 26:12-14, Mark 14:10-12, Luke 22:3-6)

Day 6: Good Friday

Jesus is tried and crucified, then taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb.
(Matthew 27:1-62, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:63-23:56, and John 18:28-19:37)

Day 8: Resurrection Day

Multiple eyewitness accounts of Jesus having resurrected and the discovery of empty tomb.
(Matthew 28:1-13, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-49, and John 20:1-23)

Lenten Devotions took place each Friday during the Lenten Season at 6pm. Fr. Jason led each devotion and offered a reflection each night, guiding

each night's words as a day in the final week of the life of Jesus before His crucifixion. Thank you to all who attended these devotions, heeding that call of increased prayer throughout Lent.

Kielbasa Making & Sale

Continuing a decades-long tradition, the choir of St. Mary's got together on "Palm Saturday", that is, the day before Palm Sunday, in order to prepare the fresh kielbasa for sale out of St. Mary's. With hundreds of pounds of pre-orders, the choir and friends worked together

in the morning to prep, package, label, and separate orders for our hungry supporters. Thank you to everyone who supported the work of the choir. The proceeds will help aid their travels in the summer to the Milwaukee area for the Diocesan Choir Convention and Concert that is held every two years.



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Various Announcements

TODAY – And for the entire month of April, we use the 5th Eucharistic Prayer on p. 92 of our Mass books.

EASTER BLESSINGS– What a wonderful Resurrection Sunday we celebrated last weekend at St. Mary's! From a beautiful liturgy and procession beginning at 7 to the blessing of food and breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, fellowship, 10am Mass and another breakfast – a peaceful way to celebrate the most important day of the church calendar. We are thankful for all who came to worship, who helped out with preparations for the breakfasts, cleanup, and those who shared fellowship. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

LENTEN CROSS – Thanks to all who pinned their prayers on the Cross – they've been burned & offered to God.

ANTONIO'S FUNDRAISER! St. Mary's is held a restaurant fundraiser on April 11 (just prior to print) at Antonio's in the Shoppes at Parma. Thank you to everyone who was so gracious to come and grab a bite and work towards a nice overall donation to the Church.

EASTER – The Easter Season begins with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days, until the day of Pentecost, this year on May 28.

The length of the celebration reminds us of the importance of this season and the importance of the Resurrection event in the story of our salvation. Please keep your Easter spirit strong over these next few weeks! We show this by remaining standing throughout the Canon/Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, as we add extra "alleluias" throughout the liturgy, and as our Easter decorations stand out in our church proper.

SKIP A NIGHT OUT – Thank you to all who participated in the Skip a Night Out "restaurant fundraiser". It was extremely successful! And congrats to Miss Katie who won the gift card for a night on the town!

POLISH PARADE – The parade for Polish Constitution Day takes place Sunday, May 5th. St. Mary's will be marching in the parade. Wear a St. Mary's Shirt! – please consider marching with us!

TRAVELING CLERGY – Fr. Greg is away at St. Mary's PNCC in South Bend, IN April 14 to cover Holy Mass. Fr. Jim will be away April 14 as well, and has received an assignment from the diocese to All Saints PNCC in Sterling Heights, MI where he will be most Sundays for the foreseeable future.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS – will be celebrated alternating English & Polish during May. Please make sure to check the weekly bulletin schedule. Consider attending these Eucharistic Devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother, patroness of our Parish. It is an opportunity to see one of the unique liturgies of the church: Litany, Exposition, & a small procession.

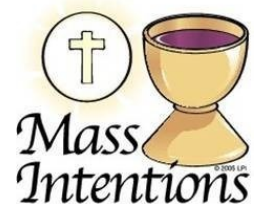
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP – Info for scholarships from the National United Choirs is available– see Chris Paulus or Fr. Jim.

BOWLING TOURNEY – The National PNCC/YMSofR Bowling Tournament is hosted this year by us! The festivities begin Friday, May 24 with 11am registration followed by bowling at Spins Bowling Lanes (formerly Cloverleaf). A hospitality room is open 6-10pm at the Holiday Inn in Independence. On Saturday, it is a 9am "tip off" for team bowling, and a banquet, awards, and dancing at Pokrova Hall from 6-10pm. The banquet meal is open to all and our parishioners are encouraged to attend. It is \$40 per person (\$10 kids 5-12 for nuggets & fries) and features open-bar and a family style meal, followed by dancing. See Elaine Ploskonka, tourney chair, for any additional info.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

April 7 – Gene Mora of. by daughter Cherie Kugler
April 14 – Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski & Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko
April 21 – Rose, Walter, & Edward Franczak of. by John Spilka
April 28 – Raymond J. Kovach of. by Cheryl Repko

May 5 – John Paul Repko of. by Cheryl Repko
May 12 – Barb Thome of by Barbara & Bruce Bogzevitz
May 19 – Stanley & Yolanta Kwiatek of by John Spilka
May 26 – Carl & Helen Bogzevitz of. by Bruce & Barbara Bogzevitz



Next 6 months open dates: July 7; Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25; Sep. 8, 15, 29; Oct. 27

April Days of Note



April Birthdays

- 7th – Helen Wankowski
- 12th – Michael Oleniacz
- 14th – Karen Barnes
- 22nd – Julie Koehler
- 29th – Nick Sivik
- 30th – Sue Bengala



April Anniversaries

- 1st – Tom & Karen Bedocs
- 28th – Elizabeth & Zbigniew Starnawski

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



“Resurrection Poem”

Mary came to the tomb one day,
Found that the stone had been rolled away.

One look inside, it could be said,
That Jesus had risen from the dead.

Just as Jesus had prophesied,
That on the third day he would rise.

As Mary was standing by the open grave,
She turned her head and heard a voice say,

“Mary, why are you weeping?
Who are you seeking?”

She had just seen the risen Lord,
His life had been restored.

The empty tomb is a fact of history,
One that can give eternal victory,

Jesus lived on the earth for forty days,
After he had risen from the grave.

His Spirit can live within your heart,
And give your life a brand new start.

No one can explain the empty grave,
Except the ones whose souls he saved.

The empty grave is here to stay,
We’ll meet the risen Lord some day.

By John Clark



Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer | Bob Kaczmarek |
| Bill Kastak | Anna Dawidziuk |
| George Makovicka | John Spilka |
| Johanna Markiewicz | Patrick Kmitt |
| Jim Boehnlein | Sauna Smullen |
| Marty Bengela | Tom Putynski |
| Jeff Pardy | Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Joseph Bischoff |
| David Micka & Al Micka | Phil Symons |
| Ed Pierson | George Bennett |
| Greg Hodor | 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 | Amanda Monyak |
| Roseanne & George Ziefle | Judy Alexin |
| Connie Benko | Jenni Avondet |
| Karsen Winters | Shyanna Tiller |
| Maria Muttillio | Laurie Slominski |
| Sage McLane | Dave Tuma |

WE ALSO REMEMBER

- ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
- ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN
- Bless them, O Lord.



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