

# St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

**May 2018**

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## So...What do we do?

It is a healthy exercise for any group or organization to take stock in how it is performing in terms of its goals, its mission statement, and per its purpose. For St. Mary's, as we have continued through the Easter Season, with the glory of that April 1, 2018 Easter morning fading, the lilies succumbing after a solid 5 weeks, and the hymns now beginning to shift towards Marian and summer hymns, it is as good a time as any for us to do so.

On the Day of Ascension, this year held on May 10, a perfect 40 days after the Resurrection, we hear what the call of Jesus was to his disciples. Of course, this was the inspiration of my writing today! It is from Mark 16 - "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they



drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Ok then! Some of this holds quite strong...but I don't think I'm going to gulp down a snifter of turpentine because Jesus gave the power to people centuries ago to survive this. Seriously: In addition to what Jesus commissioned at His Ascension, we have the Corporal Works of Mercy, as outlined by the Church and taught to us in our Catechism and based on Matthew 25:31-46. They are what we should do to/for anyone as if he or she was Jesus Christ Himself. There are seven (of course there are seven!): Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the prisoners, bury the dead, and give alms to the poor/clothe the needy.

When I think of my personal and our collective ministry to God's people at St. Mary's, I ask you to think to yourself: are you and I doing enough? I mean, the answer could always be that we could and should do more, but...do we at least hit all seven?

Feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty? I'd like to think we do ok. We cook a hot meal monthly, accompany with drink, and have backpacks full of

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3 days of food. Any good priest worth his salt will give alms to the poor - be it money for a hard case or something else.

Give alms to the poor/clothe the naked? Well, over the last two years, St. Mary's has collected thousands of articles of clothing and donated them to the surrounding community.

Shelter the homeless? Well, admittedly, that is a tough one- perhaps too tough for a small parish like ours. We've helped out places in the past that provide this ministry, but this is the toughest.

Visit the sick and the prisoners? Of course. Some parishes even have a visiting ministry where groups of people visit and offer prayer in a communal way. HIPPA rules have made this a bit tougher however. And a visit to someone in prison? No one has done anything so bad that the grace of God should be denied. And if a parishioner? Who could use a visit more than him or her?

Finally, burying the dead. Perhaps the "easiest" for a church to do, because it is understood that this is *part* of the church...I suppose, the last part. I was asked the rules for burying the dead recently. Simply - it is prioritized. It should always be done in a timely manner, and should usurp things on a parish schedule when necessary.

As a priest with a family, some of

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### Fr. Jason's Article (Cont)

these can be tough. It is the sort of thing that churches with celibate clergy embrace: that the family of a clergyman is his parish. And you know, there is some truth and beauty to that. Not that any married PNC priest would deny a late night visit to the Emergency Room or plan a funeral only on one particular day of the week...but family responsibilities can make it tough! For the first 1000 or so years, this was the reality of all Christian Clergyman (priests). It was having a parish and having a family. It wasn't until a decree at the Second Lateran Council in 1139 that priests were called

to be celibate, and this was re-affirmed in 1563 at the Council of Trent. (I always imagined a mass exodus from the seminaries when this newsbomb was dropped!)

In all, let us take stock of ourselves and our roles at our parish - are we treating each person who walks through our doors as if he or she were Jesus Christ?  
*Fr. Jason*



### Various Announcements

#### May Devotions

May Devotions began Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm (English) and will be celebrated also on the following dates: May 9 (Polish), May 16 (English) May 23 (Polish), May 30 (English). 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.

#### Polish Parade

The parade for Polish Constitution Day took place Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Congregants and friends of St. Mary's proudly marched. Watch for pictures and information in next month's newsletter

#### PolishFest 2018

The dates have been set – the PolishFest will take place Friday-Sunday, September 7-9. If possible, please

allow your schedule to accommodate volunteering at this event.

#### Mission & Evangelism Workshop

The 18<sup>th</sup> Mission and Evangelism Workshop took place April 27-29 at All Saints Parish in Carnegie, PA, and was attended by Cleric Jim Plokonka. We look forward to his full report.

#### Bible Study

A new section of Bible Study begins in May—we will be reading "I am a Church Member" by Thom S. Rainer and using the accompanying scripture—Keep on eye on the parish bulletin (always available on our parish website) for dates and times.

#### Flowers

Towards the end of last summer, Father Jason began asking parishioners to bring in flowers from their home gardens to beautify the church. The call goes out again – as our Easter Lilies have met their day, the desire for fresh flowers remains. If you

would like to bring in flowers to put on the main altar for a Sunday, please arrange with Fr. Jason so he can make sure it is acknowledged. We would love to schedule as many Sundays as possible!

#### Men's Spiritual Retreat

The National YMSofR is sponsoring a Men's Spiritual Retreat at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center in Waymart, PA from May 17-19. Transportation can be provided— see Cleric Jim or Fr. Jason if interested.

#### Convo 2018

Convo 2018 is being hosted by the Central Diocese July 23-27 and will be held this year at the University of Scranton, just blocks away from the first parish of the PNCC, St. Stanislaus. Info is posted on the bulletin board. There is also a raffle to help support the entirety of the event – please stop by the Board Room to purchase a ticket.

# St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

## The Month that Was

April 2018 was a month featuring continued celebration of the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ...as well as a few parish events.

Since we covered April 1st's Easter Sunday in our last issue, we will follow the few things we have done since:



On Sunday, April 8, we decided to take the "Low" out of Low Sunday and schedule one Mass with our Easter Dinner & Potluck to follow. Per tradition, the Pastor and Parish Committee Chair shared the blessed hard-boiled eggs with parishioners as they waited in line to eat. Unfortunately for Fr. Jason, this is the one hard-boiled egg he has to eat per year. He has since recovered.

Bowling concluded, with the team of Fr. Jason, Frankie, Batman and Calbert winning out on the last day, which was April 22. The bowling season began last autumn and ran about every-other Sunday through April at the Red Circle on State Road.

Michele Misiewicz-Barry serves as league president and Elaine Ploskonka as secretary/treasurer. This is non-sanctioned league that is open to men and women, parishioners and non-parishioners alike. If you'd like to bowl next season, please contact Elaine at 216-536-3496- if you don't have a team, you can be assigned one.

No bowling season is complete until fun day takes, place, which was April 29. Here are some wacky pictures of the goofy time had by crazy people!



Our largest event of April was the Pierogi and More dinner on Friday, April 27 from 4:30-7pm. It was the third in a series of what turned out to be late winter/early spring monthly dinners: February Holy Hotcakes, March Pierogi, April Pierogi and more.

This was a well-attended dinner, with just short of 100 dinners served. Diners had options: a full meal, which featured 3 pierogi, a kielbasa link, Holy Trinity PNCC of Cleveland's famous Sweet 'n' Sour Cabbage, kolachy, and coffee. Diners could also have items ala carte, which many indeed chose to do. Many thanks to Steve Fesz and family for leading the brigade on running these 3 dinners over the last 3 months. Unfortunately, we seemed to be camera shy again!



## Pierogi & More Dinner

St. Mary's church-made pierogi

- 3 Pierogi (butter and onion, sour cream), Kielbasa, cup of Soup, Sweet & Sour Cabbage, Kolachy Cookies, Coffee \$10.00
- 3 Pierogi (butter and onion, sour cream), cup of Soup, Sweet & Sour Cabbage, Kolachy Cookies, Coffee \$7.00
- Kielbasa Sandwich, cup of Soup, Sweet & Sour cabbage, Kolachy Cookies, Coffee \$7.00
- 12 and under \$5 *carry-out available*

Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 7pm



## PNCC Future Directions Update

May 1, 2018

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church

As we continue this Year of the Family across our Holy Polish National Catholic Church we focus this month on the Blessed Virgin Mary – the Mother of God. A special thanks to Kathryn Nemkovich for preparing the message this month.

And the angel Gabriel said: "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."

Mary asked, "How can this be?"

And Gabriel said, "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Mary replied, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

We know the story of the Nativity and the beauty of the night that Jesus was born. Each year at Christmas we all are reminded about Mary's faith and trust in God and her willingness to accept all that was told to her. One can imagine the feelings Mary had as she swaddled the beautiful little baby in her arms. Her trust in God, her faith, had delivered to her the miracle of baby Jesus...the wonder of it all.

Other than when Jesus is a child in the temple and at the wedding at Cana, the next time we witness Mary is as Jesus is on his way to Calvary. It's easy to disconnect now from the time when the angel Gabriel appeared and the wonder of Christmas and Mary holding her little baby boy.

She hears the people shouting "Crucify him" knowing that it is her son they are condemning. Imagine her suffering as Mary follows her son closely on his journey to Calvary, seeing firsthand the beatings, his falls, his pain...remaining silent as she knew this had to be.

We are witnesses to Mary's ever-present faith...her willingness to accept all that was told to her...at the time she held in her arms her new baby boy, when she held in her arms the crucified body of our savior, her son, and then when she experienced the joy of our Lord's resurrection.

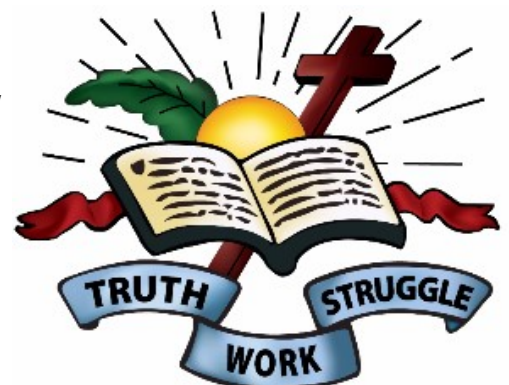
Think of the struggles in your own life – consider the challenges we face in today's world – think of how hard it is at times to not question what is happening at the given moment. Our lives are a mix of happiness and sorrow, and at times our faith can certainly be tested.

Mary serves as an example to all of us. Let us stand strong in our faith, replying as Mary did..." Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

As we celebrate the Year of the Family, let us also take to heart words from a song about Mary, *Gentle Woman*, and allow ourselves and our families to grow in faith and in love:

GENTLE WOMAN, QUIET LIGHT  
MORNING STAR SO STRONG AND BRIGHT  
GENTLE MOTHER, PEACEFUL DOVE  
TEACH US WISDOM, TEACH US LOVE

[Click here for the refrain of Gentle Woman](#)



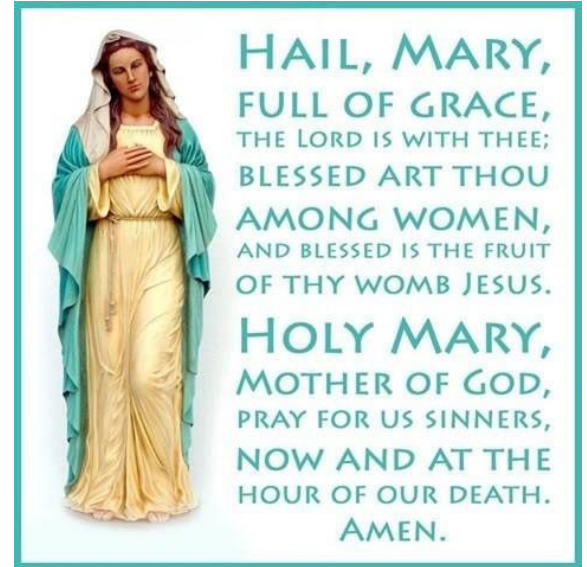
**PNCC Future Directions Update (continued)**

Here is **The Angelus** from our PNCC Prayer Book (The Angelus is traditionally said at 6 am, 12 noon and 6 pm – this is why the church bells ring at these times daily):

- V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
- R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary ...
- V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
- R. Be it done unto me according to your word. Hail Mary...
- V. And the Word was made Flesh.
- R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...
- V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
- R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O Lord, we ask You, pour forth Your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.



We are also appealing to all our parishes to please keep in your prayers our upcoming Holy Synod now just five months away. In preparation for our Holy Synod we are asking for you to share with our committee pictures and testimonials from successes that you have experienced as you implemented the future direction over these past four years. Please email them to [FutureDirection@pncc.org](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org)

We hope you continue to enjoy a blessed Easter Season with your families as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost later this month.

**PNCC Future Direction** is now 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](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church. Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.

As we begin this Holy Year of the Family may we look to the example of the Holy Family and put God's will first in our lives. May God bless you and your family as we begin this new Year in our Lord 2018. Sincerely yours in Christ,

**PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee**

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*

We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:

- Growth and Membership
- Increase Spirituality
- Lifelong Learning
- Sacred Vocations
- Community Involvement and Presence
- Action Plan for PNCC Parishes in 2018: The Year of the Family

1. Greater Understanding of Church Solemnities: Humble Shepherds
2. Two Days of Retreat: Lent and Advent
3. Complete at least five community service projects
4. Implementing the Year of the Family Component
5. Implement Lay Ministry Program in PNCC
6. Move forward with PNCC Office of News & Media Relations
7. Create a PNCC Future Direction Facebook Page
8. Constant Prayer for our October 2018 General Synod



### May Days of Note



- 1<sup>st</sup> – Marianne Viers (Misiewicz)
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bruce Toburen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kevin Burger
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tom Bedocs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pat Glatzer
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Jimmy Ploskonka
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Joshua Knapp
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Sally Harper
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Demi Paulus
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Lolly Spilka
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Debbie Moritz
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Chuck Repede
- 15<sup>th</sup> – George Ziefle
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Adrienne Michalczyk
- 18<sup>th</sup> – John Grmovsek
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Jim Matteson
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Andre Spanjol
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Jo Ann Long
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Audrey Spanjol



*Happy Anniversary*

1<sup>st</sup> — Gerald & Kathleen Beres



## "Mary"

Sing praises to God  
little Mary.  
Sing songs of acceptance  
of God's presence.  
Sing what God has  
done for you  
And for all the generations  
of humanity.  
You do not sing of what  
God has done to you-  
Not you!  
In your child-like wisdom  
You see  
That God's Incarnation  
Through you  
Is for you  
And for all.  
The lowly are raised up!  
The poor are no  
longer invisible!  
Their cries have been  
heard,  
And a Savior will come  
Through you, gentle girl.  
A Savior for them,  
And for you,  
For all...  
Blessed be  
God's name indeed!  
And blessed be you,  
dear Mary.  
Blessed are you  
For saying,  
"Yes!"

-- Claudia Demick --

### 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         | Gerald Beres           |
| Polly Gajda           | Frank & Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres        | Louise Cygan           |
| Helen Budney          | Bruno Tracy            |
| Chester & Ann Warzala | Tom Petrie             |
| Gail Perz             | Amy Dreger             |
| Halina Dreger         | Patti Dotson           |
| Tom Putynski          |                        |

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       | Bea Miskow               |
| Rose Neyman              | Carol Boesch             |
| Joanie True              | Daniel Rinella           |
| Fr. Tom Sheha            | Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard       |
| Gracie Pijor             | 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.            |
| Duda Family              | Bill Hinton              |
| Nan Cramer               | Bp. Stanley Bilinski     |
| Bp. John Mack            | David Vaden              |
| Bp. John Swantek         | Jeannie Bartko Muran     |
| Mary Cawley              | Edna Samelson            |
| Kim Blaha                | Geri S.                  |
| Wanda Heffner            | Larry Bernacki           |
| Donna Kidd               | Paulette Lilli           |
| Muffie B.                | Nancy Jablonowski        |
| Marilyn Girard           | Courtney Austin          |
| Stephanie Milla          | Rich Dombrowski          |
| Shannon Alberino         | Jayden Pieciak           |
| Jeremy Steinbrick        | Katie Stallbaum          |
| Marcia Klein             | Julia Badarzynski        |
| George & Linda Makovicka | Mike Sikut               |

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

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

Visit us online at  
[www.stmaryspncc.org](http://www.stmaryspncc.org)