

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

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

July 2023

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That calculus produces some pretty close games that he usually wins. But sometimes, his shot is off and in order to reduce his frustration with the big proverbial egg he is laying on the court, I dunk a few times and start a new game.

The whole point, besides having immense amounts of fun, is that sometimes he's "on" and sometimes he is "off", and he is growing in his understanding of that concept. It is one of those macro "life concepts" that participating in sports helps develop.

Lord knows that this concept needs to be understood at all ages! I got served a healthy slice of humble pie recently. I pride myself on the fact that I have become an improved homilist as I have grown older. Not perfect, always need a bit of improvement here or there...but in my mode of preparation, I know that the rate of "duds" has decreased. However, it was dud city Sunday, June 25!

One of the things I do in sermon preparation is, quite literally, type everything out. My desk at home (where I write out each and every homily) is covered with different bibles and commentaries, and my computer's hard drive contains just about every sermon or homily I have ever written. Seriously! Having grown in the

computer age, I have everything! From my first thoughts as a seminarian and cleric to my first homily at St. Mary's to every funeral sermon preached to each homily on a college campus at a Convo or diocesan youth event.



The answer to the unasked question is "over 2000 total". And, of course, a certain percentage of duds. And duds come for many reasons – a distraction, a hot church, a message that isn't consumable, something that makes a better article than sermon, speaking about self too much, not making the message current...and many other potential pitfalls.

June 25? Well, it wasn't b/c I referenced the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (the staff that Jesus told the disciples not to carry was a featured weapon 30+ years ago in the shows/movies). For starters, my printout wasn't the cleanest copy, so I squinted a couple of times. I cited a King in the Second Book of Samuel and King Solomon in the 2nd Book of Kings and, welp, got lost in my kings. By the time I figured out what I really meant (while still preaching), it was too late and the conclusion was kind of like a plane

## Moving Past the "Duds"

Sometime in the spring, my son got a new basketball hoop. It is shorter, the rim is a bit smaller, and it is meant for mini-basketballs. It has absolutely ignited his love for basketball- now, just like his dad on the regular hoop, about half his shots go in so there is that immediate and constant endorphin rush of accomplishment.

Inevitably, after shooting a few times, he wants to play one-on-one with me...even though my eyes are at rim-level. Our rule is that I can't block his 3 pointers, and I usually shoot from acres away.



## Opening Article (Con't)

hitting the runway a little too abruptly for both the pilot and the passengers. Excuses!

And I was *mad* afterward! No one really knew except Fr. Jim, but it stewed in my brain for, well, exactly 24 hours. Because at our Monday Mass the next morning our Alleluia verse was from the Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 4, vs. 12, seen below:

*For the Word of God*

IS LIVING AND ACTIVE

*sharper than any double-edged sword*

IT PENETRATES EVEN TO DIVIDING SOUL AND SPIRIT

*it judges the thoughts and attitude of the heart*

Hebrews 4:12

The church moves right along. There have certainly been millions of homilies and sermons much worse in history than my June 25th – I think of those horror stories of bishops or pastors calling upon studying deacons as they were processing into church to preach the homily that day, just as a test...or, as it is known in college, hazing.

“Living and active” or “Living and effective” is what scripture says. I spent 4

days in Waymart, PA taking part in our Men’s Retreat that was titled “Christ the Same”, highlighting the scripture from Hebrews 13:8- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

My “dud” had me noodling on that whole divine intervention sort of thing that we count on when we worship in God’s holy church. How can Christ be the same...yet the Word of God be living? Things that live don’t stay the same—they always change— they get older, wiser, weathered, jaded, inspired, and everything between.

Well, Matthew 19:26 says: “Jesus looked at them and said, “With man

this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Aha! See, each time I preach and we hear the choir kick into song after the conclusion of the Gospel, I call upon the Holy Spirit for guidance. You, the hearer, are to call upon it for understanding and for the same discernment the scriptures just spoke of. Calling on the Spirit is calling for literal Divine Intervention—we are telling God that *we need Him* in our lives of growing faith.

That intervention is wonderful at times—sometimes, complex theological subjects are relayed without a hitch and I feel like I got away with some sort of heist from the altar of God. Other times? Explaining something simple may be what causes the dud.

Whatever the cause, may we always seek the intervention of the divine when preparing to encounter God’s Holy Word, be it at our church on Sunday or in our homes with our personal copy of Holy Scripture.

Fr. Jason



## Happy Anniversary!

St. Mary’s was thrilled to celebrate with Mark and Cathy Avondet on Sunday, June 4, as our 9am Holy Mass was attended by their friends and relatives for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

They renewed their vows during Mass and Fr. Jason presented them with a crown for Cathy and a golden cane for Mark. That crown/tiara never left Cathy’s head as the loving couple were joined by their original Best Man and Maid of Honor.

They celebrated throughout the day, first by supporting the coffee hour after church and then with family and friends. God bless you, Mark and Cathy, and we are so grateful that you found St. Mary’s!



## Parish Spring Trunk Sale

St. Mary's has held one of its biannual Trunk Sales in the parish parking lot on Saturday, June 3. This date was rescheduled from two weeks prior due to the weather.

This proved to be a boon, as the parish sold out of all 27 available parking spots for visitors to sell their wares. The full parking lot was bustling in the morning hours until lunchtime, when Steve and friends began cooking his famous burg-

ers. Is it the burger patty? The thinly-sliced onions? The perfectly round tomato slices? Whatever it is, it works! Burgers, dogs, ice cream, and drinks were sold to all in attendance on an increasingly warm day. Thank you to Susan B. for once again putting this event together and all who helped her and our beloved parish of St. Mary's to hold this successful event.



## Sunday, June 18

Sunday, June 18 was a blessed day for the parish, as we welcomed back the green of Ordinary Time for the first Sunday since January, we honored the men of the par-

ish for Fathers' Day, we held our closing SOCL exercises, and Word of God Sunday was highlighted.

To honor the Word of God, a gospel procession took place, with Fr. Jim proclaiming the Gospel from the middle of the church after it was incensed. A special Book of Gospels for this Sunday was used and it was enthroned in the center of the sanctuary upon the conclusion of the Gospel.

At the conclusion of Mass, Fr. Jason called up our SOCL coordinator Barb Bogzevitz, who offered presentations for the kids and teachers for this 2022-2023 year. Barb does an amazing job with our children, who all adore her!

Finally, there was a special bag of goodies prepared for all men of the parish upon their exit from church. It included some candy, beef jerky, chips, nuts, and a choice of a cold Polish beer or cold soda to take home and enjoy later. Thank you to all for the prep work and presentation of the gifts!



## Corpus Christi Sunday

The great Solemnity of Corpus Christi takes place 60 days after Easter, the last of the post-Easter Solemnities. The 60th day is a Thursday, but since it is a Solemnity with an eight-day celebration (an Octave), the Sunday following is titled

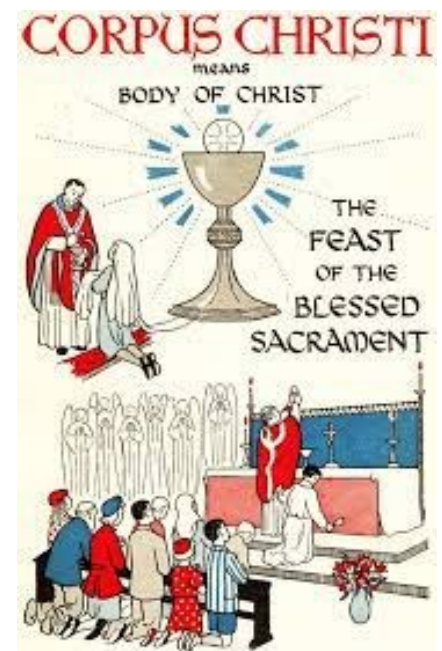
“The Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi”.

Our parish, far-removed from our Seniorate and other Polish National Catholic parishes, does not have a seniorate service where the Corpus Christi procession takes place. Rather, we celebrate it in full on Sunday morning, replete with a con-celebrated Mass by our priests and a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Since the new garage was built off the church in 2017, we have held this procession outdoors, as we can now encircle the

church in procession quite easily. Families from the Love of God Sodality set up the outdoor altars with candles, the appropriate altar cloths, and a holy piece of art of choice.

Thank you to all who participated, heard those 4 Gospels, and felt the closeness with God that the Blessed Sacrament provides.



## From the Parish Chair

Greeting to All of St. Mary's faithful supporters. It's hard to believe that six months of 2023 have passed. Thank you for everyone for their continued support. During 2022 we had a fair number of fund raisers/fundraising events earning St. Mary's over \$13,000:

- ACME - August – December receipt collection
- Clamski – Polish twist on a clambake
- Dine-Outs – various restaurant dineouts that donate a percentage of our meals back to St. Mary's
- Heat & Serve – cold food takeout
- Kolaczki Sales – three times a year
- Night at the Races
- Pancake/Paczki Dinner – long-running Fat Tuesday dinner
- Paper Recycling – big green bin in the parking lot for junk mail, flattened cardboard, scrap paper
- Pierogi Sales – frozen pierogi sold to church members, the public and sometimes used for dinners
- Pierogi/Kielbasa Dinner
- Raffles – parishioner made/donated flower cart, wreath, manger
- Soles for Souls – used and new shoe collection
- Soup Suppers – dine-in soup dinners during Lent and in October
- Trunk Sales – community parking lot sales held in May and September
- Miscellaneous Sales – sale of items no longer needed or items given to St. Mary's to sell

Since January of 2023 we've had the following fund raisers earning St. Mary's about \$4,000:

- Bake Sale
- Dine-Outs
- Fish Fry Dinner
- Kolaczki Sales
- Food Sales – frozen food not sold at a dinner



- Pancake/Paczki Dinner
- Paper Recycling – surpassed the amount earned in 2022
- Pierogi Sales
- Trunk Sales
- Miscellaneous Sales

A few events being planned or seriously considered for the rest of 2023:

- Acme Receipt Collection – August thru December
- Bring a Friend to Mass
- Deep Fried Pierogi and Hot Dog sale at our Cub Scout Pack 216 car wash
- Trunk Sale -scheduled for September (weather permitting)
- Night at the Races
- Calendar Raffle
- Heat & Serve
- Soup Supper
- Kolaczki Sales
- Pumpkin Roll Sales
- Angel Fest
- Others ???



If you have seen, heard about or taken part in an event that you think may work at St. Mary's please bring them to my attention or anyone on St. Mary's Board – Gene Stepanik, First Vice Chair, Mike Wisniewski, Second Vice Chair, Pattie Dotson, Financial Secretary, Cherie Kugler, Treasurer, Patty Temesi, Recording Secretary; Cathy Avondet, Josephine FERENCE, Ron FERENCE, Steve Fesz, Greg Hodor, Tom Kugler, JoAnn Long, Elaine Ploskonka, Elaine Repede, Chuck Repede, John Spilka, Barb Wisniewski.

Have you been asked by friends or family looking for a place to hold a Baby Shower, a Bridal Shower, birthday party or a meeting place please let them know that St. Mary's does rent our halls.

I look forward to the rest of the year and seeing you every week!



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### Congrats, Eliza!

Eliza Dreger, daughter of Jeff and Amy Dreger and granddaughter of Bruce and Barbara Bogzevitz, recently graduated summa cum laude with a 4.4 grade point average from Lakewood High School. She was very active in her school's community service organization, H2O (Help To Others), where she volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, the Cleveland Kid's Book Bank, The Cleveland Food Bank, LEAF community gardens and more. She was also a regular volunteer at the One World Shop in Rocky River. She is currently employed at Lion and

Blue, a gift shop in Lakewood. Eliza spent a lot of her free time in high school at The Cleveland Print Room, a nonprofit community darkroom and education center, where she learned the art of photography and how to develop her own film. A talented artist, Eliza was very involved in the Lakewood High School art program, winning several awards for her photography, drawings and paintings. She is the recipient of several local scholarships including the Lakewood Art Festival Scholarship and the Pearl Ann Bodle '50 Memorial Scholarship from the Lakewood Ranger Education Foundation. Eliza will be attending Ohio University in the fall on a full-tuition scholarship to study Studio Art through the Honors Tutorial College.



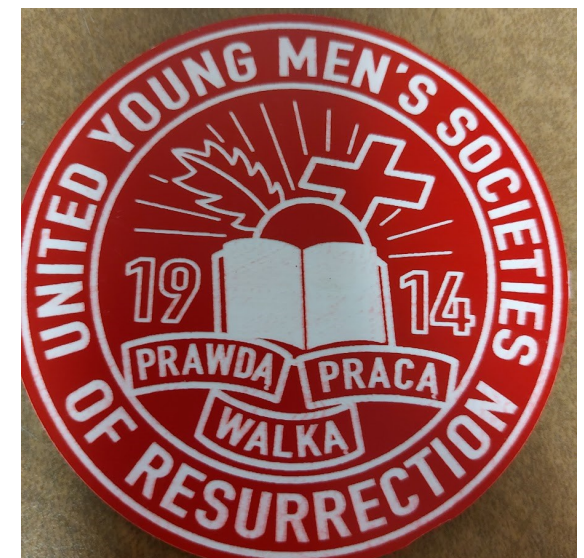
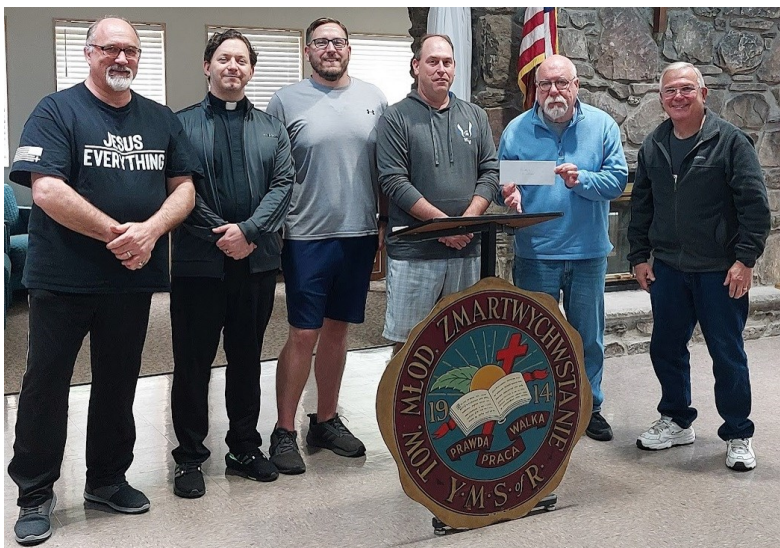
### Men's Annual Spiritual Retreat

The 6th Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat took place June 14-17 at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA.

Father Jason, Fr. Jim, Charles Repede, and Mike Wisniewski attended the retreat, traveling the 6 or so hours to be with men of the church in prayer, fellowship, and devotion.

It was a beautiful weekend, devoted to the Eucharist throughout. There will be a longer, proper write-up in the next issue of "Rola Boza/God's Field", the official publication of the Polish National Catholic Church.

More pictures are up on the United YMSofR Facebook page if interested. We hope some more men may consider traveling next year!



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

### Various Announcements

**WORD OF GOD SUNDAY** – We hope you enjoyed one of those “little differences” that we try to offer to differentiate some Sundays from others. June 18, we offered a Gospel Procession and enthroned the Gospel amongst candles in the middle of the Sanctuary.

**OVI CHECKPOINT** – The Parma Police will be holding an OVI (Operating a Vehicle Impaired) checkpoint on or near the church premise on Broadview Road on Friday, July 7 from 7pm-1am.. Drivers will be chosen at random to provide information and education to operating a motor vehicle while impaired, as well as removing impaired drivers from the road. This info was announced publicly on Friday, June 30.

**YOUTH GATHERING** – Takes place Jul. 31-Aug 3 at Walnut Ridge Retreat Cen-

ter in Morgantown, Indiana – just south of Indianapolis a little more than 5 hours away. We are hoping to fill up a vehicle to travel there- Fr. Jason will drive- please reach out if interested.

**KURS ENCAMPMENT** – Children from across the PNCC met July 1-8 at the National Kurs Camp at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA. Upwards of 90 kids will be attending and enjoying all that the facility has to offer. Keep our PNCC children in your prayers this day. Maybe we will send a few kids next year...

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION** – St. Mary's has returned full time to distributing Holy Communion by the priests coming to the filled communion rail and working our way across while offering our Lord and His blessings. Our optionality over the past couple of years was appreciated, but it was time to move back to our traditions.

**ONLINE PAYMENTS** – Just a reminder that the St. Mary's website, stmaryspncc.org, is able to receive donations online with your credit card. If the hassle of a check and a stamp is too much, visit our website- you can even note what the donation is for. Your info is protected by Square, the same card reader we use at fundraisers.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT** – The upcoming United YMSoFR Golf Tournament takes place Saturday, August 26 and will be hosted by St. Mary's. For non-golfers, we will be hosting a wonderful homemade banquet that evening at the parish, which will include an open beer/wine bar, multiple main courses, appetizers, and more. The dinner will be the same price as in 2015 - \$25!!

**MISSING** – The key for the paper towel holders has disappeared – if someone has accidentally pocketed it, please return it to Fr. Jason asap.

### Diocesan Council Meets

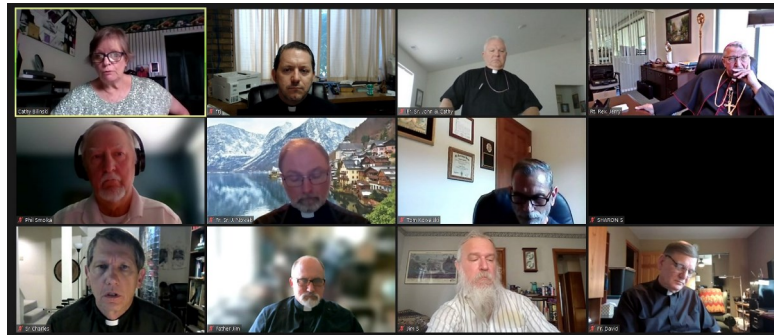
The Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church held its annual Council Meeting on Saturday morning, June 3 via the Zoom app. The meeting was called to order by our Bishop-Ordinary, the Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko, with secretary Cathy Bilinski keeping up with the voices coming out of each box.

Fr. Jason Soltysiak is the clergy representative for the pastors of the Western Diocese's Northeast Seniorate.

Fr. Jim Ploskonka is one of the bishop's two at-large appointments to the Diocesan Council. Each Seniorate is represented by its Administrative Senior,

one pastor, and two lay delegates.

The meeting recapped the last year of the Western Diocese, allowed the bishop a platform to give updates on new clergymen and status of parishes, and to begin the groundwork on the diocesan synod scheduled for the 2nd half of 2024.



### Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

July 2 – Elaine Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe

July 9— Rt. Rev. Joseph Soltysiak (50th Anv.) of. by great-grandson Fr. Jason

July 16– Ed & Loretta Pietrovich (Wedding Anv.) of. by Chris Paulus

July 23 – Margaret Sobocinski (9th Anv.) of. by sp. Clarence Sobocinski

July 30 - Diana Tacy (8th Anv.) of. by her sisters Darleen Janke & Dolores DeLong

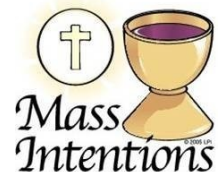
August 6 – Wanda & Casey Putynski of. by daughter Carole D'Arcy

August 13— Clarence Sobocinski of. by Elaine Ploskonka

August 20– Open for an Intention

August 27 – William Krajewski of. by sister Rose Kazinetz & family

Final 2023 open dates: Aug. 20; Sep. 10, 24; Oct. 15, 29; Dec. 10, 17



## July Days of Note



### July Birthdays

- 4th — Jolanta Misiewicz
- 16th — Chris Paulus
- 21st — Father Jason
- 21st — Zbigniew Starnawski
- 22nd — Sara Long
- 24th — Jennifer LeMassena
- 25th — Martha Repede
- 30th — Barbara Fesz



### July Anniversaries

- 14th — John & Andrea Grmovsek
- 20th — Michael & Carole D'Arcy
- 21st — Jim & Elaine Ploskonka
- 24th — Jim & Pam Nemec
- 27th — Mike & Chris Paulus

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

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# "An Independence Day Prayer"

*Lord, on July fourth we'll celebrate  
Independence Day in our nation.  
You gave us the truth to set us free.  
You sent Jesus to die for our salvation.*

*We thank you for the precious freedom  
That we have in our nation today.  
We know this country's not perfect,  
But we honor our nation, the USA.*

*We thank you for the Founding Fathers,  
Who for freedom took a brave stand.  
Many placed their very lives in peril  
To start a free country in a new land.*

*I thank you for the brave soldiers,  
Who gave their lives to keep us free.  
They gave their ultimate sacrifice  
For freedom for Americans like me.*

*As we shoot fireworks and celebrate  
With patriotic concerts and parades,  
We thank you for all your blessings  
And your great love that never fades.*

*As we gather with our loved ones  
For picnics and barbecues and fun,  
We want to thank you for everything,  
Especially for sending your only Son!*

## By Margaret Cagle



## 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      |
| June Zaun                | Sauna Smullen            |
| Marty Bengela            | Tom Putynski             |
| Kim Kolens               | Millie Dominik           |
| Kathleen Beres           | Joseph Bischoff          |
| David Micka              | Jeff Lukas               |
| Ed Pierson               | George Bennett           |
| Daniel Morgan            | Pattie Dotson            |
| Elizabeth Starnawski     | 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            |
| Jeremy Steinbrick        | Katie Stallbaum          |
| Marcia Klein             | Kim Penney               |
| Rev. Jim Ploskonka       | Patrick Kmitt            |
| Roseanne & George Ziefle | Dan Ewanko               |

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

