

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

August 2017

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Heaven

When I was in high school, one of my favorite bands of all time, *Alice in Chains*, (I know, most bands have strange names) released a song titled "Heaven Beside You." Like most rock songs, it was about lost love and how the songwriter, before his own stumbles and failures, realized that he once had a piece of heaven next to him in the form of the love of his life.

So, Heaven is the theme of my article. Heaven is a tough one—I love to speak about it because everyone's interpretation is different. This is because of movies, books, or articles consumed, because of another's account, because of one's knowledge of scripture, or of one's very personal faith. I remember at my first Youth Convocation someone asking the question of "what does Heaven look like?" And the first kid who answered (not me, I swear!) said that heaven was shown at the beginning of each episode of *The Simpsons*, as the angelic "Ahhhh....The Simpsons..." was sung and the clouds moved over for the cartoonish logo.



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Because I felt the answer was personal, one Sunday this past month I assigned as penance for our Sunday Absolution to really spend time to ponder what you know about Heaven, what you think about Heaven, what you hope about Heaven. How great to receive the amount of feedback I did! From the positive to the negative to even the inconclusive - I believe it served to enhance the coming teachings of Jesus.

Throughout all of July, we heard from St. Matthew's Gospel, as is *a propos* in Year A of our Liturgical Cycle. The entire teaching was Jesus, through parables, trying to teach his followers what the Kingdom of Heaven/Kingdom of God is.

Following along in the Gospel and the Sundays in July...on July 2, Jesus tells us we must take up our cross (Mt 10:38). On July 9, that God reveals His mysteries to the little ones (Mt 11:25). Then, in Matthew 13, the parable of the seed and the soil, and how different people (thorny, rocky, shallow, good) receive the word of the Kingdom differently.

By July 23 (these dates are all Sun-

days), Jesus is more direct—the Kingdom of Heaven is like the field with wheat and weeds. The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, the smallest seed that grows the largest. Or like yeast that needed 3 parts of flour to become something better. And on July 30, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, like a pearl of great price, like a net that collects both good and bad fish. And, finally, in Matthew 13:52, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

For about an entire calendar month, we feel like Jesus is speaking loudly about one of life's greatest mysteries – Heaven. I preached about the reason Jesus would speak in parables was because to understand something so perfectly divine (of God), He needed to make it more humane.

The first Sunday in August caught a lucky break, as it was August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration. For that moment, Peter, James, and John were witness to the ultimate blend of divinity and humanity. They got to see the Kingdom of Heaven on display—per Jesus' teaching, they saw the wheat separated from the weeds, the fruit of good labor, and indeed, a good scribe who blended the old (Moses, Elijah) with the new (Jesus Christ). next page

Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

For us, taken in the weekly segments that many of us experience scripture or the works of God or church—this is as good as it gets in deciphering what often seems like code! Where we needed little leaps of faith to try to understand parables, here was this Transfiguration event where Heaven came upon the earth.

Perhaps not all scholars believe that this was Heaven, but take in the scriptural visuals: "His face shone like the sun", "His clothes became white as light." "a bright cloud cast a shadow over them", "from the cloud came a

voice that said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him.'"

The reaction to this by Peter, James, and John falls in line with any who experienced God on earth—they were terrified, fell to the ground. Scripture tells us in similar situations that Daniel got sick for days, Saul (later Paul) would be blinded.

The reason I love to speak about Heaven is because I'm not sure anyone can be wrong in their answer of what it is. But I will say this—I saw a post, from Holy Mother of Sorrows PNCC Facebook

page, that really got my brain moving. It said "If you are not into worshipping and praising God for one hour per week, think twice about going to Heaven where you will worship God 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and throughout all ages.

Wow! But it is a soul-searching statement. Jesus tried to teach us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. Perhaps we overthink it. Perhaps, it is as simple as being in a state where we want nothing more than to be able to praise and worship...we'll see!

Fr. Jason

Various Announcements

YMSofR Golf Tournament

Will be held on Sat. August 19 in Buffalo, NY. We would still love for St. Mary's to be well-represented. Flyers are posted.

Mass Intentions

There are a few open Sunday's to offer Mass for a loved one. Please see Fr. Jason. Available are 9/10, 10/1, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/10.

YMSofR Cookout

YMSofR members (and interested men of the parish) are invited to branch president David Micka's house after 11am Mass on Sunday, August 13 for a cookout and meeting. David lives just two blocks from the church – see him or Fr. Jason for more info.

Elevation

Dr. Jim Ploskonka will be elevated to Cleric at a service at St. Mary's on Friday, September 15 at an evening service. He has been in the Diocesan Diaconate program for

the last 2 years, studying to be a Permanent Deacon. Bishop Stanley Bilinski approves all candidates and elevations in our diocese.

What is a Cleric?

The best way to describe a cleric is as "an apprenticeship." "Cleric" is the first step in the formation process to the ordained ministry, be it deacon or priest. A man is "tonsured" which is his "first sacrifice"...hair, often in a circle like a monk or with 5 snips, representing the 5 marks/wounds of the cross. A cleric wears what a clergymen wears- in our (PNCC) case, that white tab in what is known as a "Roman Collar." The bishop grants new tasks to a cleric, depending on the minor orders received- they are: porter, lector, acolyte, blessing. They represent ancient tasks for men in the church- doorkeeper, reader of scripture, assistant at the altar, and blessing of items.

Women's Conference

A women's retreat will be taking

place October 18-21 in Erie, PA, sponsored by the National Society Board of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Entitled, "Who Am I?", it is open to all PNCC women age 16+. Information & registration packets are posted on the Bulletin Board and can be found online at pncc.org.

Pierogi Making

Took place Saturday, July 22 for the Dinner and a Car Show. Thank you to all who helped—we made all three flavors and were out at a decent hour!

Food Ministry

After taking the month of July off due to the PolishFest, our monthly Food Ministry took place this past Wednesday to a large crowd of 88 attendees, including a number of first-timers. Our year-to-date total is 520 mouths fed and souls served by our hospitality.

Dinner & A Car Show

At the time of this printing, the 8th Annual Dinner & a Car Show has been enjoyed. Please keep your eyes on next month's newsletter for a write-up and plenty of pictures.

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4th Annual PolishFest

4th time is the charm...right?

Although there are still some threads to tie up, some edges to smooth, some wrinkles to iron out...things went very well for our parish in our fourth iteration of our four day summer festival.

Financially, it was our best year by far. Quite a far cry from our first year, when we were in the red! The hard work and long hours put in by our dedicated volunteers allows us to have less fundraisers throughout the rest of the year.

Communally, it could have been better. We had such an uptick of customers that many of our people didn't get the chance to kick back and enjoy the event going on.

Technically, it was a tough one. By next year, our 5th iteration of the event, we



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4th Annual PolishFest (Continued)

are quite confident we can avoid repeating some mistakes. As we discussed at our first wrap-up meeting, much can be alleviated with some better planning, which is already taking place

Emotionally...well, things ran hot a couple of times there. Like any event, really, when you get a bunch of people together working towards a common goal...but with different paths to get

there. No blow-ups, but the kettles were cooking!

Creatively, it was a joy to see different parishioners take on new responsibilities, and some in leadership roles. From last-second decision-making to overriding an idea that needed improvement, the juices were flowing. Though we did this year's Fest without an "official #1 in charge", enough feedback has been given to the parish to give us a guide on how to progress forward and continue to grow.

Spiritually, we gained some steam. Many people came to Fr. Jason to ask about St. Mary's and the Polish National Catholic Church. The 5pm Saturday Mass we had for the event also saw its largest crowd yet, with about 60 worshippers praying before dining.

Though only 4 events old, we need this fundraiser as a parish! If you haven't visited us for this yet or if you haven't offered a few hours yet, please consider for next year—we need you!



Western Diocesan Youth Gathering

The bi-annual Western Diocesan Youth Gathering took place at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, OH from July 18-21. Father Jason and Ethan Long attended from St. Mary's. This year's theme was "Arise."

Fr. Jason was blessed to be able to give the first session, which he spoke about the way we experience God/can experience Him with our 5 senses.

Unfortunately, that was about all Fr. Jason had in him. After a rough half

night, he was forced to leave due to illness...the first youth event he left in his life out of, perhaps, nearly 50!

Ethan spent the week, loved it, and came home with a burnt forehead. We look forward to next time!



Wedding Bells were Ringing...

Many congratulations to Nate Ploskonka and Amanda Sledz, who were married at St. Mary's at 4pm on Saturday, July 15th. The couple chose to begin their married life with making the covenantal agreement with God and to receive the Eucharist at Holy Mass

They attended Pre-Cana meetings with Fr. Jason in the weeks leading up to the

big day. Their reception was held shortly after Mass.

May God continue to bless Mr. & Mrs. Ploskonka and, as the Nuptial Blessing at the end of Mass says—if they are so blessed with children one day, help them to be good parents; and may they live to see their children's children!



National United Choirs Workshop & Convention

The National United Choirs Workshop, Convention, & Concert took place this past July 26-29 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH.

St. Mary's had two attendees: David Micka and Jim Ploskonka. They were both elected to serve on the NUC Board for the next two years-David as Secretary, Jim as Treasurer.

Videos from each performance were recorded and posted by Mr. Micka on our parish Facebook page. You can check the Eastern Diocese's Cathedral Facebook Page—Holy Trinity Cathedral PNCC to see hundreds of pictures from this event. Below are a couple of quick pictures—enjoy!



A note from your parish chair

So here we are working toward the middle of August already! It's hard to figure out and sad to think how fast time goes by! The last "note" from me was in the June newsletter asking for help at the start of what was going to be some very busy weeks ahead, I quote... "The spiritual, physical, and financial success of our Parish is up to each and every one of us. With the next couple months being very active for the parish we need everyone's cooperation! Please take part in whatever way you can to help." I'm very happy and thankful to say We Did It! Over 6,000 pierogi were made - golabki, kielbasa & kraut, cabbage & noodles, and more were cooked - set up happened - welcoming of our visitors at both the PolishFest and Dinner & A Car Show was kindly expressed - clean up happened - and as a Parish we were fortunate to profit approximately \$18,000.00. Of course there is always room to make things better and more volunteers would be appreciated(!) but for the summer of 2017 we can be proud of what was accomplished spiritually, physically, and financially. THANK YOU!



BOWLERS START YOUR WARM-UPS... St. Mary's Bowling League will be starting in September. If you are planning to return or are interested in joining the league **please contact elaine as soon as possible!!** More details will follow in the weekly bulletins.



One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and asked, "Why are some of your hairs white Momma?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this for a while and then asked, "Momma, how come ALL of Grandma's hairs are white?"



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Absolytly amzanig huh?

Let's get cookin'



A repeat from the August 2008 Newsletter...
For those of you harvesting your gardens or just enjoying the freshness of summer foods here are a few light recipes to try from the pages of "St. Mary's P.T.O. Presents... Adventures in Cooking."

Easy Zucchini Pie Chef: Isabel Sieracki

- 1 can (8 oz.) refrigerator crescent rolls
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 3 medium zucchini
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 T. butter
- 1 cup shredded cheese (Monterey Jack or cheddar)
- 1/2 clove garlic, crushed
- 2 tsp. chopped parsley
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- Sliced tomatoes
- 1/4 tsp. dill weed

Separate crescent rolls into 8 triangles and press them together in a 10-inch pie plate to form a crust. Scrub zucchini and slice into 1/8-inch thick circles. In a large skillet, melt butter and sauté zucchini until light brown. Add garlic and seasonings and spoon zucchini onto crust. Slice tomatoes to cover entire pie. Pour eggs over mixture, add cheese and sprinkle with parsley. Bake at 325 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Serves 8 as a main dish.

Blueberry Jello Salad

Chef: Jennifer Glatzer (aka. LeMessena)

- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) black raspberry Jello
- 2 cups boiling water
- can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple, drained
- can blueberry pie filling

Dissolve Jello in water. Add pineapple and pie filling. When partially set, stir gently to distribute fruits. Place in serving dish. Chill until firm. When completely set, add topping.

Topping:

- 2 pkgs Dream Whip
- Chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cups milk
- 1 box instant vanilla pudding

Whip Dream Whip with 1 cup milk and vanilla until stiff. Prepare vanilla pudding with 1 cup milk. Combine. Spread over blueberry salad. Top with chopped nuts.

elaine p. plaszonka

August Days of Note



August

- 1st – Johanna Markiewicz
- 2nd – Kyrsten LeMessina
- 4th – Blake Colwell
- 5th – Bob Samelson
- 6th – John Spilka
- 12th – Clarence Sobocinski
- 13th – Chester Budney
- 14th – Sarah Dicken
- 15th – Tom Petrie
- 16th – Bruno Tracy
- 18th – Steve Fesz
- 19th – Len Pryer
- 20th – Claudia Toburen
- 24th – Matt Spilka
- 28th – Cherie Kugler
- 28th – Julie Alberino



August

- 1st — Chuck & Elaine Repede
- 5th — George & Roseanne Ziefle
- 14th — Chester & Helen Budney
- 17th — Bruce & Claudia Toburen
- 24th — Doug & Stephanie Waugh



"Heaven's Grocery Store"

As I was walking down life's highway many years ago I came upon a sign that read Heaven's Grocery Store.

When I got a little closer the doors swung open wide And when I came to myself I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels. They were standing everywhere One handed me a basket and said "My child, shop with care."

Everything a human needed was in that grocery store And what you could not carry you could come back for more.

First I got some Patience. Love was in that same row. Further down was Understanding, you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of Wisdom and Faith a bag or two. And Charity, of course, I would need some of that, too.

I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost It was all over the place. And then some Strength and Courage to help me run this race.

My basket was getting full but I remembered I needed Grace, And then I chose Salvation for Salvation was for free I tried to get enough of that to do for you and me.

Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill, For I thought I had everything to do the Masters will.

As I went up the aisle I saw Prayer and put that in, For I knew when I stepped outside I would run into sin.

Peace and Joy were plentiful, the last things on the shelf. Song and Praise were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel "How much do I owe?" He smiled and said "Just take them everywhere you go."

Again I asked "Really now, how much do I owe?" "My child" he said, "God paid your bill a long, long time ago."
Author Unknown

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	Kathleen Beres
Floyd & Elaine Rzonca	Frank Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Chester & Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Gayle Green
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
Don and Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Al Tomasello
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
Duda Family	Daniel Morgan
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Johanna Markiewicz	Edna Samelson
Kim Blaha	Bill Chambers Sr.
Wanda Heffner	Geri S.
Donna Kidd	Colleen Howard
Muffie B.	Nancy Jablonowski
Marilyn Girard	Larry Hoekstra
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Coleen Fisteck
Marcia Klein	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Mike Sikut	Larry Bernacki

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

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

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org