

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

June 2025

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A Walk through our ABC's

This past winter, I watched my son play session 1 of a basketball league. They were short of coaches and the head guy of the league took the lead on the team. Over that 8 or so week league, I watched...and it became an overwhelming feeling that I should just take over. By the end of that session, I told the head guy I would do so for session 2 (which turned into session 3 as well). Coach Mitch joined me, both of us embarking on our maiden coaching voyages in basketball.

We were pretty good at it too! We featured complementary styles, loud enough voices, structured practices, and a passion for the success of the kids. However...Coach Mitch and I have watched a lot of basketball in our lives, which led to a few confusing mistakes by us—see, everything in basketball has secondary or even tertiary names. One minute it's a "pick and roll", the next it is a "screen and roll". One minute we call it a "rebound", the next it is "a board". It took a few comments from a few loving wives that made sure that in coaching, we were speaking the same language to these kids!

The liturgy is like this as well. As a young altar server, we learn the names of things in literal ways, or by cues giv-

en for when things should be done. I'll walk through a few of these that perhaps you have viewed from the pews and never gave a second thought to...but will perhaps unravel some more mysteries of the Holy Mass. Perhaps, they can be tackled alphabetically for your and my amusement!

Ablution—In the Mass, the washing and consuming by the priest of wine and water. Also the process of purifying the chalice during Mass. The first ablution is for the priest, the second for the vessels.

Balustrade—This is actually the "official" name of the altar rail that separates the sanctuary from the nave of the church. It is considered an extension of the altar; as the priest receives at the altar, so others receive at its extension.

Chalice—A chalice needs to keep the same form it has had since the Middle ages: base, stem with node/knob, and cup, with a gilded interior.

Dialogue—The participation of the faithful in the Liturgy, as the celebrant exchanges responses: ie, "The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**"

Epiclesis—The part during the Eucharistic Prayer where the celebrant literally calls upon the Holy Spirit and descends his

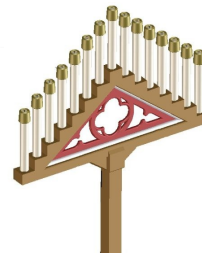


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hands upon the elements.

Fraction—After the Lord's Prayer, the celebrant breaks the Body of Christ in half and takes a fraction from it, adding it to the Blood of Christ—this symbolizes the saving nature of both Body & Blood.



Girdle—Yup, a Celebrant wears one, but it looks more like a cord now and is commonly called a cincture.

Hearse—Nope, not for funerals—this is the actual name of the large candelabra used for Tenebrae Service.

Insufflation—Something that we all have witnessed! This is the breathing upon something by the ordained minister 3 times in the form of a cross—it is done in a baptism as well as in blessing of holy oils.

Jug—One of the accepted names, as well as "acquamanile", of an ornate vessel used to wash a prelate's (bishop's) hands. We have one here!

Kyrie eleison—The Greek words for "Lord, have mercy". In the Contemporary Rite of the Mass, this is done in a dialogue (you know what this means!) and in the Traditional Rite, it is done in groupings of three for each of the Divine Persons of God.

Lavabo—The washing of hands the celebrant does at Mass, which is the first word of Psalm 26 in Latin, which is recited when washing. It takes

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Opening Article (cont)

place after the gifts are offered (and after incensation at a High Holy Mass). This is reminiscent of the ritual cleansings of the Jewish faith before offering sacrifice.

Miter/Mitre—The hat a bishop wears that is round at the base and rises to two separate high points, made to look like a tongue of fire, as received by disciples at the Pentecost.

Narthex—The name for the area where one enters the church, but before the main doors of the church -also called a vestibule.

Oremus—The Latin word for the phrase "Let us Pray..."

Pall—The square piece of linen that is placed upon the top of the chalice (you know how these are supposed to look!). It is often white but can be the liturgical color of the day. It is meant, well, to keep bugs out!

Quadragesima—



ma—This is actually the official term for the 1st Sunday of Lent—kinda makes sense, after we count down from Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima.

Rattle—Also known as a crotalus, clacker, or clapper. This is the instrument used to replace bells during the Holy Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday and are made to sound like the hammering of nails.

Stoup—This is the official name of the vessels that are located near the entrances to the church that contain Holy Water (as opposed to the font, in which Holy Water is created and kept for use.

Thurible—Also called a censer, and it is the portable instrument where lighted charcoal can be placed within and incense placed upon for incensation. Bonus: In procession, the one who carries this is called a thurifer.

Utraquism—Aha! I am sure perhaps someone reading this knew all the terms so far, so here is the stumper. This



term means "receiving Communion under both species", that is, Body and Blood. This was a movement in the 15th century to counteract the fact that then, only priests received the Blood of Christ. Today, we in the PNCC keep this alive in our practice of intinction, that is, dipping the Body of Christ into the Blood of Christ and placing it directly on the tongues of the faithful.

Vulgate—the Latin version of the Bible made by St. Jerome, the Old Testament translated directly from the Hebrew text. It contains what some call the "deuterocanonical" books but we Catholics just call "The Bible". The lectionary is "rooted" in this version of scripture.

Wine—The easiest one! The second great element of the Eucharist.. Once, there was a practice of using a fancy liturgical straw to consume the wine-turned-Blood of Christ called a fistula...bet you didn't know that!

X— Couldn't find an "X"....so, X is for "Extra" as in the extra "F" entry, above for the fistula.

Year—The liturgical year begins on the 1st Sunday of Advent with the final Sunday being the Solemnity of Christ the King. It consists of days "of the season" and days "of the saints."

Zucchetto—The skull-cap that a cleric can wear: a pope wears white, a cardinal red, a bishop purple, some lower level clerics can wear black.

Fr. Jason

Polish Parade

A few (brave?) parishioners and supporters decided to join the city-wide event and walk in the Parma Polish Constitution Day Parade, decked out in St. Mary's gear or red & white.

St. Mary's joined the Miss Dyngus group that includes two of our own: Miss Dyngus 2025 Karen Colwell and recent holder of the title, Trish Karabowicz.



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Marian Devotions

Marian Devotions were held each week during the Month of May, alternating Fridays and Wednesdays as well as alternating being celebrated in the English and Polish language.

Although interest in these devotions was a bit lower this year, we will wholeheartedly continue our devotion to our patroness and the Theotokos. Sermons took place each evening on an aspect of the Blessed Virgin, be it her life, the church's developed thought on her impact, or the meaning of various portions of the Litany to the Blessed Mother.



Food Ministry Note

Gratitude for the Gift of Service: A Word of Thanks to Mission Team

By Rev. Jim Ploskonka

We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated members of our Mission Team, who generously offered their time, talent, and treasure in preparing and delivering 120 nourishing meals as part of our parish's Food Ministry Program on May 7th. Your service is a true act of Christian charity and a testament to living out the Gospel in both word and deed.

Food Ministry has just hit 30,338 meals served to individuals and families in need since its founding in 2013! So far in 2025 alone, an inspir-

ing 2,750 meals have been lovingly prepared and served. Jesus reminds us in the Gospel of Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:35, 40, NRSV) If you feel called to

sponsor a meal and be part of this vital ministry, please connect with one of our Food Ministry team members: Father Jason, Nancy and Ron Roharik, Patty and George Bennett, or Elaine Ploskonka. The cost to sponsor a meal is modest, but the impact is immeasurable.

Let us continue to be the hands and heart of Christ in a world so hungry for His love.



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Mothers' Day

Holy Mass was celebrated on Mother's Day on what was Good Shepherd Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Easter. After a joyful and participatory Mass, women were welcomed with a gift of flowers on their way out of church.

But it did not end there! The smell of pancakes and sausage also greeted the faithful, with YMSofR Branch #29 and friends offering a breakfast for all in attendance...of course, with women of the parish served first!

Breakfast also featured assorted fruit toppings, coffee, tea, juice, and an ancient St. Mary's Mothers' Day tradition, mimosas!

Thanks again to all who were a part of providing the food, those who prepped and cleaned and of course, to the fairer, stronger gender for their wonderful presence in our lives!



Clergy Conference

The Annual Clergy Conference and Retreat of the PNCC Western Diocese took place May 12-14 at the Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center, part of Marian University's Ancilla College in Donaldson, Indiana.

There was a retreat and discussion portion as well, led by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, that focused on the minutiae of the Sacrament of the Word of God. This multi-part presentation allowed for some serious questioning-and-

answering, leaving many long-ordained priests with a further desire to know this Sacrament even better!

The facility and grounds were conducive to a relaxing retreat and a per-

colating conference, where plans were hatched out for the clergy, friendships were re-stoked, food was shared aplenty, and the sounds of prayer, conference, laughter, and silence emanated from our gathering.



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Bowling Event

The PNCC/YMSofR Bowling Tournament took on a new identity for 2025, known as the "bowling event", with a greater focus on relaxation and fun and less on the competitive aspect of the almost-sport.

Holy Cross PNCC in Hamtramck, MI played host to the event, which saw attendees from a number of states, eager to see each other after last year's event was cancelled.

A small contingent of bowlers from the St. Mary's bowling league attended, including Elaine Ploskonka and Karen & Vincent

Colwell. A reception followed bowling each day and Holy Mass concluded the event on Sunday morning, May 18.



Dialogue Meetings

Fr. Jason attended the Annual Dialogue Meetings of the Polish National Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church in Scranton, PA on May 20 & 21. The main focus of this year's meeting was celebratory and planning, as the dialogue recently marked its 40th year in existence. A report on the history, hopes, future and shared statement on the Eucharist was received, debated, edited and adjusted over the course of the meeting. The meeting was attended by the PNCC Prime Bishop and his brother bishops as well as the Archbishop of St. Louis, MO and two of his brother bishops as

well as priests from both sides representing a variety of regions in North America.

The group will meet next year in St. Louis with the focus on the theological and ecclesial minutiae of sponsors, godparents, and marriages between members of each denomination.



Church Decoration

St. Mary's recently installed a new decoration in the welcoming area/Fellowship Hall vestibule depicting our Lord's Supper.

We plan on keeping this up for a little while, allowing the lower portion to be thematically adjusted for the season. If anyone has any other decorative ideas, let us know!



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Memorial Day

Remembrances for Memorial Day began at the conclusion of 9am Mass on Sunday, May 25 with the blessing of the Patriotic Wreath before the altar of St. Joseph.

The 10am Memorial Day Service that has been held by the parish of St. Mary's at the Sacred Heart of Jesus PNCC Cemetery took place on a sunny Memorial Day, May 26.

Fr. Greg Gronn and Fr. Jim Ploskonka served as the co-celebrants of this service. Fr. Jason Soltysiak provided a reflection on the reading and gospel for those in attendance. The clergy made sure to visit and bless the

graves of all those who served in our nation's armed forces.



Pierogi Making

The parish held a pierogi making event on Saturday morning, May 17th. Of course, pierogi making needs planning ahead, so great thanks to those who purchased, lugged, prepared dough and fillings, set up the hall, etc.

It was a beautiful Saturday which made for comfortable pierogi-making weather. Everyone worked in-sync and paused to enjoy a delicious lunch that was made up of pasta, golabki, salad, and more. Great appreciation to all who chipped in- we do



have some potato/cheese pierogi for sale, with other dozens put aside for the late summer's Polka Party.



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Various Announcements

FAVORITE HYMN? – Do you have a favorite hymn, be it from another church, radio, or wherever that you would like the choir to consider learning? The choir wants to know your favorites! Drop a note to our Choir Director Chris so we can try new things.

PENTECOST– The Easter Season begins with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter and lasts 50 days, until the day of Pentecost, this year June 8. The Solemnity of Pentecost honors that gift of the Holy Spirit to all the believers in the Upper Room, and allows the Church to look at the Spirit's continued and incredible influence on the life of believers and of the Church itself. Church attendees often wear red not just to match the pastor, but to reflect the gifts of Spirit they have received in their walks with Christ.

MEN'S RETREAT – A group of men will be traveling to Waymart, PA to take part in the 8th Annual Men's Spiritual Retreat takes place June 18-21 at Spojnia Farm. If there is any last-minute interest in attending, see Fr. Jason asap!. The theme this year is "For us Men, and for our Salvation". The cost is \$150 per person, transportation provided.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – For the month of June, we use the 4th Eucharistic

Prayer on p. 88 in the celebration of Sunday Mass

TRUNK SALE – The annual Spring Trunk (and Bake) Sale, originally scheduled to be this past Saturday, has been rescheduled to take place on Saturday, June 14. As we have experienced in the past, the public has not supported this event in unseasonably cool or wet weather. The event will feature a bake sale, lunch food on the grill many locals selling their wares. See Susan Boehnlein with any further questions.

FR. JIM– Continues celebrating 10am Mass on Thursdays as well as leading the St. Mary's Food Ministry Team's weekly meals on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you, Fr. Jim!

ASCENSION MASS – The 40th Day of the Resurrection took place on Thursday, May 29th, and scripture shows it to be the Day of our Lord's Ascension. This event is etched in stained glass on our parking lot-side of church.

VISITORS TO ST. MARYS- Please fill out the yellow cards found at each pew and drop in the collection basket in order for us to contact you in the near future!

POLKA EVENT— Discounted pre-sale tickets are available for purchase for the upcoming St. Mary's Polka Party on the grounds of St. Sava's on Sunday, August 10. Flyers are posted!

GOLF TOURNAMENT– Save the Date!

August 16 in Buffalo, NY. Open to all—more details to come shortly.

CORPUS CHRISTI – The Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi is June 22nd – the parish will continue its tradition of Eucharistic Procession at the close of Holy Mass to the four exterior altars. Weather permitting, this will take place outdoors. The parish Love of God Sodality takes charge of the physical preparations for this event.

SACRED VOCATIONS – June is Sacred Vocations Month. Please consider a donation to the Clergy Pension Fund to honor our clergy for their dedication to church and their parishioners. Pray for your priest, your bishop, and any other clergy in your life. Spend time in prayer for more vocations from within our Polish National Catholic Church.

YOUTH GATHERING – Of the Western Diocese takes place July 21-24. If a child is interested in attending, forms are available and are found by the parish boxes or by speaking to Fr. Jason

CLOSING OF SOCL – The closing exercises of the 2024-2025 School of Christian Living take place during Holy Mass Sunday, June 8th.

CHOIR CONVENTION & WORKSHOP
Hosted by Holy Family PNCC in McKeesport, PA July 30-August 1. See Chris Paulus or Marzena Krulik for more info.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

June 1– Joan Spilka (wedding anv.) of. by husband John

June 8 — Gregory Alfonzo of. by the Torres family

June 15 – Len Pryer of. by daughter Evonne

June 22– Adeline Karabowicz of. by daughter Trish

June 29– Elaine Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe

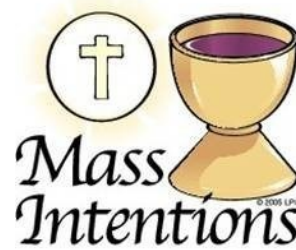
July 6 – Linda Sosenko of. by husband Richard & family

July 13 — Janet Swiatkowski of. by the Karabowicz family

July 20 – Ed & Loretta Pietrovich of. by Elaine Ploskonka & family

July 27– Clarence & Margaret Sobocinski of. by Elaine Ploskonka

Open dates for Sunday Mass intentions for the rest of the year are Jul. 20; Aug. 17; Sep. 14, 28, Oct. 19, Nov 2, 30- Please contact Fr. Jason to schedule.



June Days of Note



June Birthdays

- 3rd — Wiler Ploskonka
- 6th — Bridgette Dotson
- 7th — Mitch Ploskonka
- 7th — Darleen Janke
- 12th — Madi Ference
- 18th — Elizabeth Starnawski
- 26th — Mary Ann Kasperczyk



June Anniversaries

- 2nd — Mark & Cathy Avondet
- 7th — John & Eileen Kasperczyk
- 12th — Bill & Pat Glatzer
- 18th — Mitch & Sarah Ploskonka
- 19th — Paul & Jennifer LeMassena
- 22nd — Bill & Wendy Zychowski
- 25th — Fr. Jason & Natalie Soltysiak
- 27th — Bruce & Barbara Bogzevitz

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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"The Priesthood"

Blest Order, which in power dost so excell,
That with th' one hand thou liftest to the sky,
And with the other throwest down to hell
In thy just censures; fain would I draw nigh,
Fain put thee on, exchanging my lay-sword
For that of th' holy Word.

But thou art fire, sacred and hallow'd fire;
And I but earth and clay: should I presume
To wear thy habit, the severe attire
My slender compositions might consume.
I am both foul and brittle; much unfit
To deal in holy Writ.

Yet have I often seen, by cunning hand
And force of fire, what curious things are made
Of wretched earth. Where once I scorn'd to stand,
That earth is fitted by the fire and trade
Of skilfull artists, for the boards of those
Who make the bravest shows.

But since those great ones, be they ne're so great,
Come from the earth, from whence those vessels
come;
So that at once both feeder, dish, and meat
Have one beginning and one final summe:
I do not greatly wonder at the sight,
If earth in earth delight.

But th' holy men of God such vessels are,
As serve him up, who all the world commands:
When God vouchsafeth to become our fare,
Their hands convey him, who conveys their hands.
O what pure things, most pure must those things be,
Who bring my God to me!

Wherefore I dare not, I, put forth my hand
To hold the Ark, 1 although it seems to shake
Through th' old sinnes and new doctrines of our
land.
Onely, since God doth often vessels make
Of lowly matter for high uses meet,
I throw me at his feet.

There will I lie, untill my Maker seek
For some mean stuffe thereon to show his skill:
Then is my time. The distance of the meek
Doth flatter power. Lest good come short of ill
In praising might, the poore do by submission
What pride by opposition.

By George Herbert,, 1633

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer | Bob Kaczmarek |
| Bill Kastak | Gail Perz |
| George Makovicka | John Spilka |
| Johanna Markiewicz | Patrick Kmitt |
| Dee Mora | Sauna Smullen |
| Marty Bengela | Tom Putynski |
| Jeff Parady | Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Mike Paulus |
| Al & Donna Micka | Ron Ference |
| Ed Pierson | George Bennett |
| Florence Nemkovich | 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 | Tom Pietka |
| Pam Tropiano | Linda Vect |
| Dennis and Sue Vect | Marcus Vaughn, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzurowf | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Doreen Stanley | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Wisniewski | Cathy Pieciak |
| Nan Cramer | Jim Lukas |
| Sage McLane | Dave Tuma |
| Phil Repko | Shyanna Tiller |
| 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 |
| Laurie Slominski | Amanda Monyak |
| Roseanne & George Ziefle | Judy Alexin |
| Connie Benko | Joe Litto |
| Matthew Penney | Diane Ellis |
| Josephine Ference | Pete James |

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

