

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

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

**May 2021**

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## Triduum & Easter

The Holy Triduum is the three-day grouping of liturgies that are the direct lead-in to the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. The Triduum began on April 1 this year with Maundy Thursday, with the Mass of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist con-celebrated by Fr. Jason & Fr. Greg.

Services continued 11am on Good



Friday with the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified, 3pm Stations of the Cross & setting of the statue of the Crucified Christ, and at 7pm with the service of Tenebrae led by Fr. Jason & Dcn. Jim.

the parish. Masses were held at 7am & 10am, with the early Mass featuring the Easter Procession and a wonderful performance from our parish organist and choir.

Ninety-Nine souls worshipped with us Easter morning, inching back towards where we were before the pandemic. Each Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg.



Holy Saturday began with a series of Easter Basket Blessings and concluded with a 4pm Liturgy of Blessings.

Easter Sunday was a glorious, glorious day at



Triduum & Easter 2021 (con't)



## Church Clean-Up

Throughout April, the call was out via an announcement in the bulletin and some careful prodding from a few people for parishioners to lend a helping hand on a Saturday morning. After a scary-at-first forecast, the rain held off and we enjoyed a beautiful morning of outdoor work for our holy church on Saturday, April 24...thankfully not having to use our rain date! Cathy Avondet led the clean-up charge, as she tapped parishioners shoulders and organized a game plan for what needed to be done. After a thankful pre-clean by George Ziefle and Damion on behalf of their scouting

troop, the areas tackled were the Wexford Ave. side of the church bushes, the bushes along the parking lot, the rectory lilac tree, the church garden beds and the rectory garden beds.

After a solid morning of work and the emptying of an entire truck of mulch, we enjoyed some pizza, pasta, and more for a celebratory lunch. Thanks to all who took an hour (or 4) in preparation of Saturday, on Saturday morning, or in the days afterward.



## Final Services

Our parish had the responsibility and privilege to lay to rest two individuals during the month of April. On Easter Monday, April 5, the funeral Mass was held for Bob Bernacki, replete with full police detail. Bob had been a very ac-

tive member since joining St. Mary's in early 2014, serving on our Parish Committee from 2015 until the time of his death.

Josephine Matis was laid to rest on Saturday, April 10. Though she hadn't

been part of the parish for a number of years, the family showed great support in offering the funeral rites in her memory.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them!



## Restaurant Fundraiser

The second restaurant fundraiser of the year took place on Tuesday, April 6 at the Burntwood Tavern in Brecksville.

Though we have done "week-of" Easter restaurant events before, this was the first Easter pandemic one we did, and it didn't go quite as well as the others, although the food was excellent. Thank you to all who got to enjoy

a night out and allowed the church to reap a little financial benefit from it. We'll do three more this year!



## National PNCC Events take place

Our parish was able to participate in a couple of national events for the Polish National Catholic Church during the month of April.

Fr. Jason traveled to Scranton, PA after celebrating Holy Mass on Sunday, April

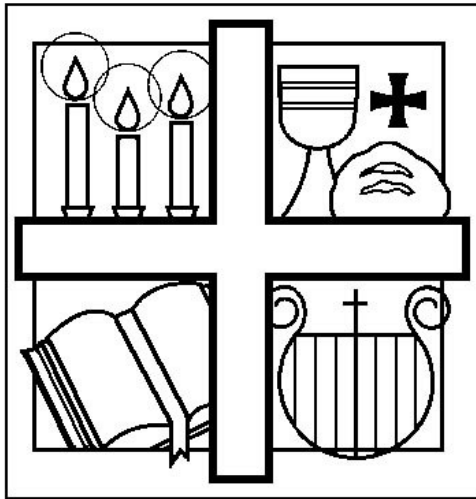
12 to participate in meetings for the National Commission on Liturgy.

The commission meets twice a year to discuss matters of liturgy (what we do in public worship) and to create, edit, improve, and approve forward-thinking liturgy for the church.

The National Mission & Evangelism Workshop took place April 30-May 1. A number of parishioners from our

St. Mary's parish attended this virtual conference titled "Discovering the PNCC."

Fr. Jason was a presenter at this year's workshop on Saturday morning, giving a talk titled "Discovering the Liturgy". During his talk, he gave some background on how the Mass developed within the life of the PNCC, including a number of unique aspects about our Sunday Holy Mass.



## Various Announcements

**EASTER** – The Easter Season began with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days, until the day of Pentecost, this year May 23. 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, as we remain standing throughout the Canon/Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, as we add extra "alleluias" throughout the liturgy, and as our Symbols of the Resurrection remain in our sanctuary.

**POLISH PARADE** – The parade for Polish Constitution Day was postponed again this year. Hopes for next year!

**LOVE OF GOD SODALITY** – As vaccinations have come for many, it is time for our parish organizations to come together for the work and devotion of our Lord and Savior once again! The Love of God Sodality held a monthly meeting

recently, re-electing all of its officers for the rest of 2021. The next organizational meeting takes place June 27.

**LUNCH DATE**– The Love of God Sodality will be holding a luncheon at Michael Angelo's Winery on Friday, June 25th at noon. Please see Patty Temesi if interested in attending this event.

**MAY DEVOTIONS** – May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated each Wednesday in May, beginning on May 5 in Polish (May 12 & 26 in English, 19 in Polish). Please 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 short procession, all in about 30 minutes.

**MEN'S RETREAT**—The Fourth Annual YMSofR Bp. Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat takes place June 17-19 at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA.

We would love to have more men of St. Mary's in attendance. The theme this year is "How to Move On". The cost is \$100 per person and covers food, room, & board. Virtual attendance is available as well. Please see Fr. Jason if interested in attending-transportation available.

**FLOWERS** – A few years back, 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. Thanks to Cathy Avondet for adorning St. Mary's Altar for our Marian Devotions.

**YMSofR** – The YMSofR (Men's Society) of St. Mary's is planning to meet Sunday, May 30 after 9am Mass. We hope that any and all men of the parish would consider attending this meeting, as we hope to take it in a new direction with new leadership and activities. Mark your calendar, men!

## Words from our Parish Chair

# Happy Mother's Day!

*To all Moms ... May you enjoy a beautiful Mother's Day and may God always bless, protect, and guide you!*

### Mean Moms

Someday when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them, as my Mean Mom told me: I loved you enough... to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.

I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was a creep.

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that should have taken 15 minutes.

I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment, and tears in my eyes. Children must learn that their parents aren't perfect.

I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart.

But most of all, I loved you enough... to say NO when I knew you would hate me for it.

Those were the most difficult battles of all. I'm glad I won them, because in the end you won, too. And someday when your children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates parents, you will tell them.

Was your Mom mean? I know mine was. We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others had Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different from what other kids had, too.

Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less.

We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to

break the Child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, empty the trash and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds and had eyes in the back of her head. Then, life was really tough!

Mother wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them. While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16.

Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault.

Now that we have left home, we are all educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mom was. I think that is what's wrong with the world today. It just doesn't have enough mean moms!

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## Our Lady of Czestochowa

Our Lady of Czestochowa is also known as St. Mary of Czestochowa, which our Parish was named at its inception in 1915. We are now known simply as St. Mary's. Take notice of the stained glass window in our choir loft, seen from outside above the church steps, it is of St. Mary of Czestochowa. The following history was taken from a website of our sister Polish National Catholic parish, Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish in Latham, New York. (BVMC.org)

### The Miraculous Image

Tradition holds that St. Luke painted it on the top of a cypress-wood table that came from the home of the Holy Family. At the request of the faithful, Mary sat for the portrait. When it was finished, she was pleased, saying that "My grace shall accompany it." Thus began the wonderful history of the painting.

Venerated for nearly 300 years while hidden in Jerusalem, the painting was discovered by St. Helen while she was searching for the True Cross. She brought it back to Constantinople and presented it to her son, Constantine the Great, the first Christian Emperor of Rome. Constantine built a chapel for the portrait, where it remained for five centuries.



### Words from our Parish Chair (Con't)

Miracle upon miracle was attributed to the intercession of Mary by persons praying before the portrait. Over the years, many enemies laid siege to Constantinople. The chapel became a center of hope for the people of the city. During one attack, the city seemed ready to fall, but the people rallied to the painting, and Constantinople was saved. Another time, the city was under attack, and the chapel caught fire. Everything was destroyed except a small section of wall upon which hung the painting of Mary and Jesus. The intense heat and soot from the fire had darkened the already dark olive features of the Madonna and Child.

Eventually, the painting was given by the Byzantine Emperor to a Ruthenian nobleman. The portrait was taken to Kiev and installed in the Royal Palace of Belz. It remained there for the next 579 years.

In 1382, the painting was damaged by invading Tartars. An arrow pierced the Miraculous Image, leaving a scar that is still visible on the neck of the Madonna. Concerned with the portrait's safety, Prince Ladislaus Opolski decided to move it to one of his castles in Upper Silesia.

On the brow of a hill called Jasna Gora ("bright hill") -- and within a few paces of the town of Czestochowa -- the horses drawing the wagon with the painting stopped. No amount of coaxing or goading could make them go on. Mary appeared to Ladislaus and told him that this spot was to be Her new home. The Miraculous Image was placed in a chapel and given to the care of the Basilian monks of the Greek Rite. A few years later, Prince Ladislaus gave its care to the Latin Rite Hermits of St. Paul, who are still there to this day.

The remarkable history of the painting continued. It figured prominently in the heroic and successful defense of Poland against invaders who were enemies of the Church. Over time, the monastery at Jasna Gora became a monastic fortress -- and the focal point for Polish nationalism.

In 1655, the monastery held out against a mighty Swedish army. In 1683, it was the Turks who attacked. And, in 1920, the Bolsheviks. As a result of these and other historical events, Our Lady of Czestochowa was crowned as Queen of Poland. Her Feast is observed on May 3 which is also the anniversary of the Polish Constitution.



Throughout the centuries, the painting did not escape desecration and mutilation. In 1430, Hussites looted the monastery. Pillaging whatever they could find, they loaded all of the treasures of Jasna Gora into wagons. Horses pulling the wagon with the painting refused to move. The Hussites threw the portrait off the wagon, and the horses began to pull it forward. One of the raiders -- seeing the jewels and gold covering the painting -- slashed at it with sabers. Having cut twice into the right cheek of Mary, he prepared to strike it for a third time -- and fell dead. The other raiders fled for fear of Divine Retribution.

Repeated efforts by skilled artists to patch the scars failed. Each time the facial cuts reappeared. It is believed to be the will of Mary that the scars should remain as a sign to any who would desecrate Her Shrine.

In 1909, vandals tore off the gold crown and "overdress" of pearls. This sacrilege was repaired and the portrait was restored with the help of Pope Pius X, who furnished a new crown. Today, a painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa adorns the altar of the Pope's private chapel at Castel Gondolfo.

#### **Why Is She Referred to as The Black Madonna?**

"Black Madonna" is a nickname. It refers to skin tones in the portrait of Mary and Jesus. They and St. Joseph lived in a hot climate. Hence, their skin tone would be dark brown or olive in order to survive the intensity of the sun and avoid skin cancer.

Not until the Renaissance were there paintings of Jesus and Mary with alabaster skin, blue eyes and blond hair. Previously, all religious artwork reflected the olive skin, with black or brown hair and eyes attributed to the Holy Family and the Apostles.

Contributing to the portrait's blackened appearance is the fact that the painting is nearly 2,000 years old. When St. Luke painted the portrait of Mary with Christ, he did so with crude oil paints, which naturally dull and darken with age. Additionally, the painting has survived a major fire -- the one in Constantinople referred to earlier. Beyond that, tens of thousands of pots of incense have been burned near the painting while it was in the Eastern Orthodox Church. And, millions of wax candles have been placed before it as people make their prayerful offerings.

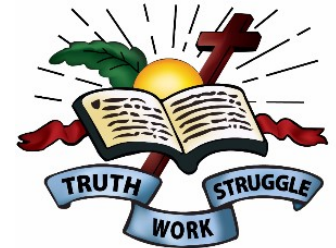
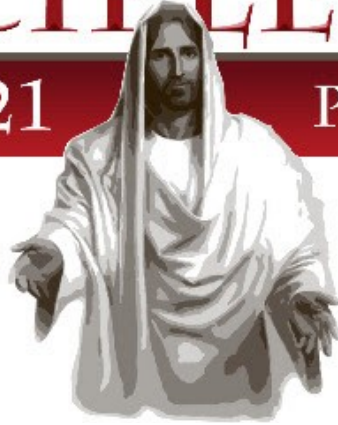
These and other factors have resulted in darkening the Miraculous Image -- the portrait now referred to as "The Black Madonna."

**PNCC Future Directions Update**

# DISCIPLESHIP

2021

PNCC



## May 2021 – Bishop Joseph Padewski

During the month of May, we focus on Bishop Padewski a martyr of our Holy Church. We remember him and all those who have lost their life for their faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

[Click Here to watch a short video message on Bishop Padewski by Fr. Jason Soltysiak](#) (or visit PNCC Future Direction on Youtube)

### Scriptures for Reflection

1 Peter 4:12-19; Luke 9:23-26

### Reflection & Action Item:

Bishop Joseph Padewski was consecrated a bishop in 1936. His efforts not only rebuilt the PNCC diocese of Poland, but fostered its growth. This growth was abruptly halted with the Nazi invasion of Poland, which began World War Two. During this period the missionary diocese in Poland once again saw the destruction of its churches and the imprisonment, torture and murder of its clergy. Fully three-fourths of the diocese was destroyed. Padewski was himself imprisoned and tortured. He was later released as an American prisoner of war, for a German general officer. He was sent back to America where he once again assumed the role of a parish pastor.



Following World War Two, Bishop Padewski returned to Poland and worked to rebuild our diocese in Poland. He gained the church a legal status in 1946. A little while later, in the midst of his efforts, the communist government made a general persecution of the Christian Church. Bishop Padewski was taken by the authorities, imprisoned, tortured and ultimately murdered. The oral account of his death was given church authorities by a cleaning woman who witnessed the torture Bishop Padewski endured. He died on May 10, 1951. At the age of 57, he became the first bishop-martyr of the Polish National Catholic Church. He was buried in Warsaw, Poland.

Almighty God, this month we remember the life of the first martyred bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, Joseph Padewski. He dedicated himself to the building up and restoring of our



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

Catholic Church for the people of Poland. May the example of his life and death inspire us to share the same message to people of all nations, proclaiming Your Gospel and so extending Your kingdom here on earth.

Offer a Prayer for Bishop Padewski and all Martyrs who have given their life for the faith. Support a person who is being persecuted for living out their faith either with your time, talent or treasure.

### **Song Recommendation: "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" by Chris Tomlin**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

### **Prayer in time of National Anxiety**

Let us pray...I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation and our world. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of our country and all people. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of all people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

PNCC Future Direction is 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.

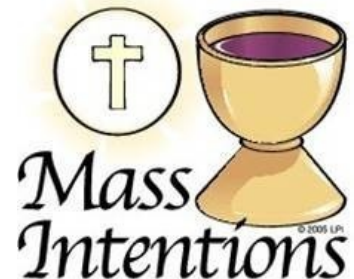


Wishing you and your family a Blessed month of May. Don't forget that the first weekend in June is Clergy appreciation weekend across our PNCC.

May God bless you; may our Lord calm this storm and may our Blessed Mother intercede for us. Have a blessed day and be safe, careful, healthy and faithful as disciples!

### **PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee**

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop  
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman



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

- May 2 – Stanley & Yolanta Kwiatek of. by John Spilka
- 10:30: Open Intention
- May 9 – Ruth Dobrowolski of. by daughter Patti Dotson
- May 16 – Anthony Soltysiak (1st An.) of. by brother Rev. Jason Soltysiak
- May 23 – Hanna Pryer of. by husband Len & family
- May 30 – John Paul Repko of. by daughter Cheryl Repko
- June 6 – Joan Spilka of. by husband John Spilka
- June 13 – Raymond J. Kovach Jr. of. by Cheryl Repko
- June 20 – Gene Mora of. by daughter Cherie Kugler
- June 27 – Emil Hronek of. by sister Claire Hunek

**\*Next open 9am dates: July 4, August 8, 15, 29, September 12, 26**

## May Days of Note



### May Birthdays

- 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) Bengston
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Lolly Spilka
- 13<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



### May Anniversaries

\*Someone plan a May wedding!\*

Visit us online at  
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like St. Mary's in Parma, OH  
on Facebook or subscribe to  
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Subscribe to our  
**YouTube Channel**

## "Our Lady's Rosary"

Dear Mother, I bring Thee roses  
Because they are so sweet,  
But lilies, my favorite flowers  
I am placing at Thy feet.

Accept with each Hail Mary  
A rose for Thy crown so bright;  
Please don't forget the lilies,  
The lilies so pure and white.

Let them be a bond of love  
And understanding rare,  
And send a blessing from above  
In answer to my prayer.

Loneliness would be unknown  
If more people came to Thee,  
With their trials and sorrows  
And said their Rosary.  
With each Hail Mary, they would find  
Their load much lighter grow,  
And in humility, kiss the cross  
In peace, would onward go.  
and drink wine salt with tears.'

### Alice W. Sparks (1944)



## Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer       | Barbara Baranowski       |
| Bill Kastak              | Anna Dawidziuk           |
| Craig Atherton           | John Spilka              |
| Johanna Markiewicz       | Mary Ann Loschelder      |
| Ralph & June Zaun        | Len Pryer                |
| Marty Bengela            | Tom Putynski             |
| Polly Gajda              | Millie Dominik           |
| Kathleen Beres           | Ralph Crispino           |
| David Micka              | Carol Hreha              |
| Chester & Ann Warzala    | Tom Petrie               |
| Amy Dreger               | Patti Dotson             |
| Elizabeth Starnawski     | Jack Spilka              |
| Elaine Repede            | John Radon               |
| Wanda Clark              | Beth Chihill             |
| Michael Cosevin          | Helen Cummings           |
| Laina Dachtal            | Wendy Andrzejewski       |
| Jay Grabowsky            | Pam Chesar               |
| Cecelia Hall             | Caroline Kunes           |
| Linda Marks              | Thomas Lill              |
| John & Anne Nemetz       | Rhonda Smith             |
| Emma Freshwater          | Carol Boesch             |
| Joanie True              | Daniel Rinella           |
| Fr. Tom Sheha            | Tom Slomka               |
| Gerl S.                  | Ben Soltis               |
| Pam Tropiano             | Linda Vect               |
| Dennis and Sue Vect      | Marcus Vaughn, Jr.       |
| Bryson Dzuroff           | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Kelly B                  | Jane Hunter              |
| Dennis Thome             | The Finnie Family        |
| Carlene Fliss            | Jim Fliss Jr.            |
| John Wisniewski          | Cathy Pieciak            |
| Nan Cramer               | Bp. John Mack            |
| Helen Budney             | Bp. John Swantek         |
| Mary Cawley              | Richard & Edna Samelson  |
| Jim Giles                | Tammy Teubl              |
| Wanda Heffner            | Loretta Baldwin          |
| Donna Kidd               | Paulette Lilli           |
| Anthony Grad             | Azriel G.                |
| Marilyn Girard           | Courtney Austin          |
| Stephanie Milla          | Shannon Alberino         |
| Jayden Pieciak           | Baby Layla               |
| Jeremy Steinbrick        | Katie Stallbaum          |
| Marcia Klein             | Kim Penney               |
| George & Linda Makovicka | Julie L.                 |
| Barbara B.               | Patrick Kmitt            |
| Michael McGivern         | Daniel Morgan            |
| Barb & Jim Lukas         | Renee Lukas              |
| Mike Matis               | Leslie Rafalko           |
| Ronald & Elaine Tiffe    | Mike Pescitelli          |
| Phil Symons              | Janice Bielecki          |
| Bob Kaczmarek            | David Vaden              |

### WE ALSO REMEMBER

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