

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

April 2018

Pastor: Rev. Jason H. Soltysiak
frjason82@gmail.com

Parish Chair: Mrs. Elaine Ploskonka
elaineploskonka@gmail.com
Cell: (216)536-3496



Happy Easter

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Since I became pastor and took over newsletter duties back in 2013, I always felt that the newsletter should include everything from the previous month—you know, like a daily newspaper (ha!) contains the information from the previous day.

But Easter fell on April 1st this year, so we had to include it in this issue!

In this packed issue, you will see our events from the month of March, which ultimately led up to the glory of



Easter Morning. Perhaps it couldn't have been more appropriate.

In lieu of an opening article (Fr. Scott Lill does an excellent theological job of helping us with the Resurrection in our Future Directions Update), I'd like to present Holy Week at St. Mary's over the next few pages:

We began with Palm Sunday, 9am Mass began with the Liturgy of the Palms, which includes the blessing of the palms, the chanting of psalms and gospel accounts, procession, the knocking on the door, scourging of the cross, and the reading of the Passion.

St. Mary's P.N.C.C.
5375 Broadview Road
Parma, OH 44134
Office/Hall Phone: 216-661-9246
Rectory Phone: 216-741-8154
Email: stmarypncc@sbcglobal.net
www.stmaryspncc.org
Like us on Facebook-St. Mary's Parma OH



Hosanna!

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Next was Holy Tuesday, the Diocesan Chrism Mass. It was celebrated at Divine Word in Chicago, IL. Fr. Jason and Cleric Jim represented St. Mary's for the Mass. Here, Holy Oils are consecrated by the Bishop and blessed also by the priests for use in the entire diocese. They are then presented on Holy Thursday at the beginning of Mass.



On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Institution of the Eucharist, of the day Christ and his disciples held the Last Supper. After celebrating Mass, the Sanctuary is solemnly stripped of it wares, with a look of calamity about it. This is to show Christ's agony in the Garden as well as the disarray amongst his followers.



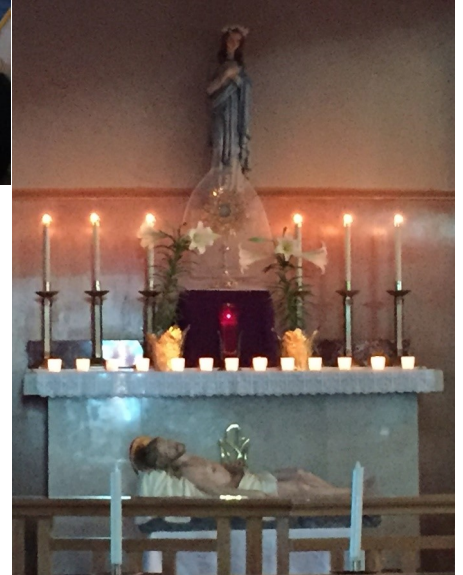
Good Friday features the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified, which is the one day we use a host from the previous evening's Mass (A priest consecrates three hosts on Holy Thursday – one for Mass right then, one for the next day's pre-sanctified liturgy, and one that will be processed to the Altar of Repose and ultimately, processed before the congregation on Easter and into its rightful home in the tabernacle.



We also hold Stations of the Cross that are geared toward the youth. At the conclusion of the Stations, near the 3 o'clock hour, the statue of the crucified Christ is carried to the tomb. This year for his Good Friday sermon, Fr. Jason read a book called "The Donkey's Cross", which

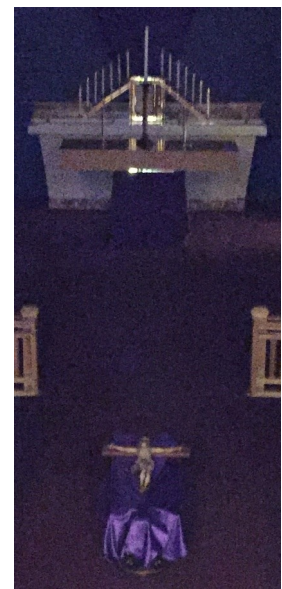


told how donkey's didn't have any markings until Christ's crucifixion. All day on Good Friday, the church is open for prayer before the



Blessed Sacrament and before the statue of Christ's body.

At 7pm, our day of worship concluded with the solemn chanting of Tenebrae, a service of darkness.



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Holy Saturday features basket blessings in the morning and early afternoon, followed by the Holy Saturday liturgy.



It features the new light for the Paschal Candle and Eternal Light (remember last month's article?) of the church, with all other candles then being lit.



It also features the blessing of the Paschal Candle (we have a new candle and stand this year— donated by the Ploskonka family in loving memory of Mrs. Lilian Ploskonka) and the blessing of

Holy Water and renewal of our baptismal vows. It is a neat service! The same length as Mass...but with nearly nothing in common with Mass.



And finally...Easter Sunday. In my 11 years as priest, the church always seems like a jack-in-the-box, ready to pop when I unlock those doors an hour or so before Mass. Even if the pews are not stuffed like they were 50 years ago, it is the completion of the 40 day fast, the end of the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday), and the celebration of EVERYTHING!



Mass begins with a silent entrance by celebrant and assistants. They gather at the Altar of Repose, which features an empty place where the statue of the crucified Jesus once lied. After blessing the empty grave and the Sacrament that had been reposed since Thursday, prayers are said in joyful preparation to process and proclaim Christ to the world.



The symbols of the Resurrection follow the Processional Cross, children, and ladies in adoration. Those symbols are the Crucified Christ as Eternal High Priest, The Paschal Candle as the light of the world, and the statue of the Resurrected Jesus Christ.



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As Procession wound around the church, we stopped at the four corners, proclaiming Christ Resurrected to the four corners of the world.

As this is a High Holy Day, incense was used at the Introit Verse, the Gospel, and at the Offertory. During the Offertory, the gifts of bread and wine are

ket blessed and voila! An Easter wonderland.

Hope you enjoyed our walk through Holy Week and Easter!
Fr. Jason



incensed as well as God's people in attendance—the holy things present in church this day.



After Mass concluded, there was the "Pastor's Reception" in the Fellowship Hall and the Easter Egg Hunt in the basement hall.

The Pastor's Reception featured food from the Soltysiak family as well as from some members of the choir. The food was blessed by Father Jason, Father Greg, and Cleric Jim.



As procession concluded, the singing of the closing part of the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament ensued. It is a powerful conclusion—it was begun on Holy Thursday and left uncompleted during the Triduum.

The Easter Egg Hunt is a product of the hard work and creativity of the Moritz family and friends. One minute on Holy Saturday, the basement looks normal...then they get their bas-



Damion Achieves Scouting Award

Mr. Damion is often seen on Sunday morning serving our Lord dutifully at His Holy Altar. He hates to miss church, and makes sure to (or have his grandparents or parents) email Fr. Jason to let him know if such an unfortunate event should occur.

It should come to no surprise that a boy this devoted to service to our Lord would also be a devoted scout. A few months back, he brought in his paper-work (and there was a lot of it!) to show Fr. Jason to earn his God and Country award badge.

Upon perusing it and seeing the quality of the work, Fr. Jason signed off on it, knowing Damion knew his stuff. Often times before Mass, Father asks Damion what he learned in school that week. He only seems to remember stuff from his religions class...

Damion received his award at a ceremony at another church, but he wanted

it officially presented to him at his own church.

On Sunday, March 18, Fr. Jason called him up to receive the award, but with a catch: the former chaplain of the Scouting Commission of the Diocese, Fr. Greg Gronn, was going to say a few words.

Scouting is near and dear to Fr. Greg, and he was quite proud to present this award with some background. After



filling in the congregation with the background of necessary studies, a bit of history, and the proper use of the badge, Damion officially received his badge.

Congratulations, young man!



Various Announcements

Easter

The Easter Season begins with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days, until the day of Pentecost, this year on June 4. 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 remains standing throughout the Canon/Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, as we add extra "alleluias" throughout the liturgy, and as our lilies and Easter decorations stand out in our church proper.

Easter Reception

Last week, Fr. Jason, Natalie, and Brady had the opportunity to serve a "Pastor's Reception" after both Masses. However, with a little meatball of a son taking some time from our

schedule, we had to lean on others even more than usual to provide food – thank you, sincerely, to all who did.

We cannot thank everyone enough for participating and sharing this time of fellowship with us. With a large number of those attending Mass coming to break bread after each last week, our work of preparation couldn't have been more well-received.

Mission & Evangelism Workshop

Information has been released for the 18th Mission and Evangelism Workshop, which is April 27-29 at All Saints Parish in Carnegie, PA, only 2 hours away. Please see the bulletin board for more info – hoping for nice representation from St. Mary's.

Bible Study

We recently wrapped up a 4 session Study on "Jesus' Final Week." It was a spirited and well-attended study that we squeezed into the entire Lenten Season. Keep your eyes on upcoming bulletins for an announcement

when the next Bible Study will take place and what it will entail.

Lenten Thank You

Many "thank you's" are in order regarding this Lenten Season: to all who kept vigil over the hours prescribed by the church to watch over the Blessed Sacrament from the hours covering Holy Thursday evening to Holy Saturday afternoon, to all who purchased kielbasa, pierogi, or baked goods at the PTO bake sale. Thank you to all who attended or participated in any of the Lenten liturgies-Stations of the Cross, Bitter Lamentations, Holy Week services, or who offered prayers on our Lenten Prayer cross to be burned on Holy Saturday. Bóg Zapłać.

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.

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Steve, Randomly Speaking...

Well, here it is...Easter Morning...and I am half asleep, driving to Sunrise Service. I park the car and get out and fall against Pete & Marge's car as they sneak in next to me. They get out and, realizing I am half-dazed, they walk me into church arm-in-arm.

As I continued to walk into the hall, I began to notice the Easter Hats and the men dressed in suits. "Wow!" I thought, "I must be dreaming back to the '50's."



can only hope it continues in the future.

As I continued upstairs to church for the Easter service, I sat down with my daughter and son-in-law, waiting for the service to begin. And like clockwork, promptly at 7:07am, the bell began to chime, the choir began to



ther and Natalie's brunch. It is with great anticipation that we go down to view the spread. It looked great: there was ham, kielbasa, raisin bread, horseradish, nut roll, deviled eggs, fruit, and a mysterious grey square thing that was very tasty.

Good time, good friends, and good food. Thank you Father and Natalie and everyone else for bringing back some memories, and hopefully for you too. And thanks to all for making it a special day for me and family. Now we are off to Easter Sunday dinner with all of our children and grandchildren at our daughter's house.

In remembering Easter 2018 at St. Mary's, let us not forget the real reason for Easter: to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God bless all, and thanks for the memories:

Steve



Well, Mass has ended. Almost two hours of meaningful prayer, of singing, and now it is time for Fa-

So, as long as I am in this dream, I might as well look in the parking lot to see if I can spot my grandfather in his yellow straw hat and white shoes, getting out of my uncle Adolph's 1956 red & black Oldsmobile.

Needless to say, he wasn't there and it wasn't a dream. The ladies/women/girls (I never know what to call them!) were wearing an array of colorful Easter hats and the men were all decked out in those suits. What a pleasant surprise to bring back, if for a bit, a little bit of the past. I

sing and out pops the priest...but wait! Is that a new priest? Could our chairperson, Elaine, have hired someone new since last week?

Upon further inspection, it was a clean-shaven Father Jason, back to his boyish look. Mass continued with the superior choir singing, Father giving his riveting sermon, and Cleric Jim Ploskonka turning the pages in the Missal for Fr. Jason with the precision of a surgeon (bishop would be proud!).



March Events—Kielbasa Making, Pierogi Making, Pierogi Dinner

March saw three events as we prepared for Easter—pierogi making, which took place on Saturday March 10th; the Pierogi Dinner, which took place on Friday, March 16, and kielbasa making, which took place on Saturday, March 24.

Pierogi making was scheduled to supply us with fresh pierogi for the upcoming dinner, as well as to have on hand to sell in advance of the Easter holiday. We were to make all three St. Mary's flavors: Sweet Cheese, Potato and Cheese, and Sauerkraut. Though planned to finish in a day, the help was scarce, so the kraut ones were finished the following Monday, March 12th.

The Pierogi Dinner was our second dinner of the Lenten Season (the first being the Holy Hotcakes Dinner & Paczki Sale). Needless to say, this one was much more successful, with over 90 dinners sold. As you may remember from last month's newsletter, the meal came with 3 pierogi of your choice, a cup of soup (New England Clam Chowder or Potato) 5 church-made kolachy, and coffee for \$7.

The dinner was a sell out, as we ran out of soup in the second hour. Thanks to everyone who supported the dinner, with special thanks to the Fesz family in their planning and running the event, all the pierogi makers from the previous weekend, and mighty John Kasperczyk, whose New England (Cleveland?) Clam Chowder recipe was a big hit.

Finally, our kielbasa making and sale went as planned for the Easter Season. Sponsored by our choir and led by our

organist and choir director, Chris Paulus, we got our kielbasa making in until Christmas.

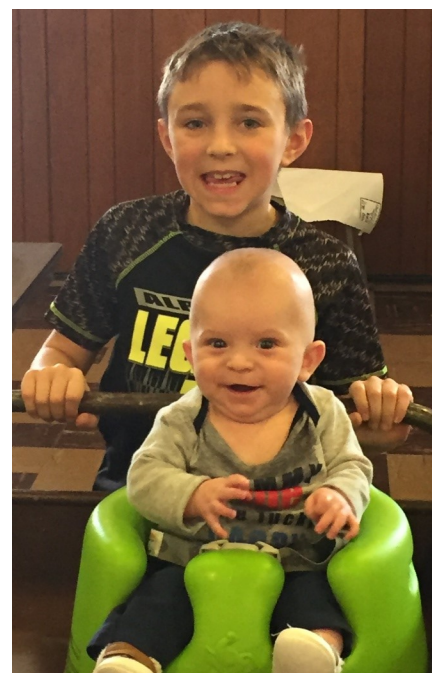


Friday, March 16th 4:30 – 7pm



St. Mary's P.N.C.C.

5375 Broadview Road



PNCC Future Directions Update

April 1, 2018

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

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! As we celebrate the most important day of the year we thank Fr. Dr. Scott Lill for preparing this month's Future Direction message: ***The Paschal Mystery: The Past, Present and Future Life of the Family***

Although no one would argue that Christmas easily wins in terms of how much time and energy we put into preparation, Easter is unquestionably the most solemn and important celebration for Christians. Finally, after fervently praying, diligently fasting and generously giving to those in need for the 40 days of Lent, we can celebrate the fact that the worst things this life can possibly throw at us have been utterly defeated through Christ's sacrificial Death, wondrous Resurrection, and glorious Ascension, all of which together we call the *Paschal Mystery*. It is these events which alone provide ultimate meaning to human existence by not only healing the depths of humanity's wounded past and promising a glorious future, *but also by setting the course for our lives in the present*.



We all recognize Easter as a time to reflect back upon the historical Death and Resurrection of Christ, and to contemplate the eventual resurrection of all God's faithful at the end of time. But, what does the Paschal Mystery mean for us right now? In a word: everything! The Death and Resurrection of Jesus mean *everything, every minute of every day* to Christians in all times and places. The Paschal Mystery--the transforming power of which was first given to us in Baptism--completely defines who we are, reestablishing and sanctifying our relationships to God, to other people and to the whole of creation. It is our source of grace and strength *every day*. St. Paul teaches this in his Letter to the Romans when he asks: "...are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." St. Paul doesn't just mean new life at the future general resurrection, but true newness of life *now*.

We come into direct and immediate contact with the Death and Resurrection of Jesus when we gather for Holy Mass and celebrate the Sacraments. Through the sanctifying and prophetic ministry of the Holy Church, we receive the grace to overcome those very same enemies that Jesus conquered: sin and its many terrible consequences, the worst of which include the loss of hope in the face of sickness and suffering and even the fear of death. When we attend and participate at the Holy Mass and worthily receive the Holy Sacraments, we tap into the inexhaustibly rejuvenating power of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, so that we can then live this "newness of life" through Him. All of this holds profound ramifications for the family, which we Polish National Catholics continue to contemplate in a special way this year.

The Paschal Mystery, as made present and effective during the celebration of the Eucharist, provides both the authentic form of the family's inner life and its fortification against the many external enemies that each family must face down in our world today. As each individual family member becomes more and more like Jesus, the family unit grows in holiness, unity and beauty, more capable to collectively live together as Christ's disciples. Family joys become even more joyful; family sorrows become more bearable; and family life truly becomes *new*. This is why all the families within the Church should reaffirm their commitment to participate in the Holy Mass every Sunday and on other holy days: by regularly participating in the Eucharistic celebration together, the family more fully becomes itself.

When we speak of the inner family life, we are considering the relationship between the members. Our own experiences teach us that family members are called by God to sacrifice self-interest for the sake of the others' good—spouses for each other, parents for their children, children for their brothers and sisters and even children for their parents. After all,



PNCC Future Directions Update (continued)

this is the love modeled by the Lord Himself on Good Friday; it is the love which He commanded us to have for each other (John 13:34-35). But, this is not always easy! In fact, it's frequently a challenge and sometimes it seems utterly impossible. We don't always feel like being sacrificially loving and sometimes the others in our families...well, they aren't exactly lovable.

However, it is especially at these times that we need to draw upon God's power made manifest within the family. For when we break free from our selfishness and gently call the others to do the same, when we rise from our frequent falls and stoop down to help the others rise from theirs, when we humbly kneel to wash their feet and even more humbly let them wash our own, and when we stand together firm in faith and serene in hope to confront sickness, suffering or even death itself with the knowledge that Jesus has conquered them all for us, it is then that we all die to our old selves and rise from the tombs of our past with Jesus to walk as people who gratefully acknowledge that they have begun to be transformed.

Then, with each member in loving communion with one another by virtue of their mutual Communion with the crucified and risen Lord present in the Eucharist, the family is more fully equipped to defend itself against the many assaults it must endure today. These include forms of entertainment and ideas promoted through social media which legitimize falsehood, division and infidelity between spouses, or which glorify immoral conduct in the lives of our children; ideologies which promote a vision of the human person not in accord with our understanding of such as revealed by God and consistently taught by the Church; a growing collective disrespect for the dignity of the human person which creeps into the garden of family life, so to speak, sowing the corrupted seeds of abuse and neglect at home which start as a certain indifference toward others but then grow into callousness, bullying and violence in our schools; the scourge of drug addiction from which the threat of which no member of any family seems immune today; or the very real temptation to place any aspect of family life--as exalted and praiseworthy as it may be--in the place that rightly belongs only to God.

Through the power of Christ's Death and Resurrection, the family can not only defend itself against these attacks, it can assume its actively unique role in the mission of the Church. If all of creation has been assumed into the radically restorative salvation made available through Jesus' work that first Holy Week and Easter, then this is especially the case for the family. As the crowning achievement of God's original work of Creation, it is now commissioned and empowered to be a potent instrument of societal sanctification and a mighty vehicle for evangelization within *the New Creation* that was inaugurated through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Each family that is changed and strengthened by the Paschal Mystery as made present to them through the Eucharist at Mass becomes a living link to the past and a radiant witness to the historical work of Jesus that first Holy Week, even as it points to the future, foreshadowing the resplendent glory to be revealed in the Church when the Lord returns to bring his work of redemption to completion. As for the here and now, such a family would display the irrepressible joy, profound peace, and collective grateful contentment that shows the world what it really means to walk in newness of life through Jesus Christ.

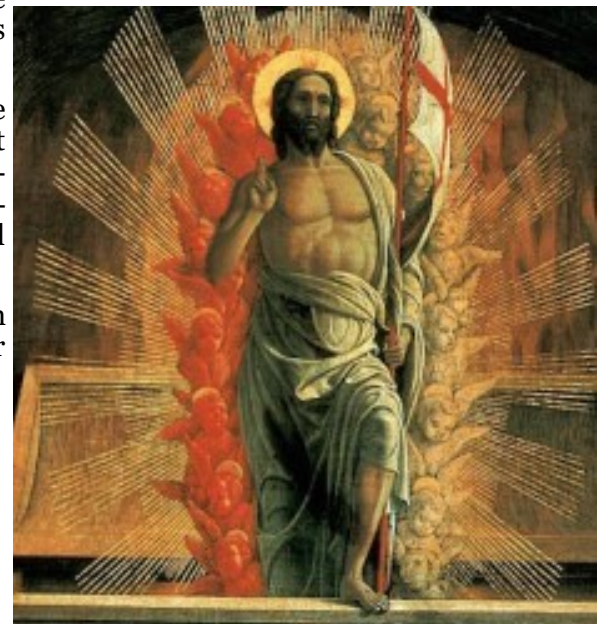
Together, then, let us thank Almighty God "who in His great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for those who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time (1 Peter 13-5)."

Rejoice! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed...and so are we. Through the prayers of the Holy Mother of God and St. Joseph, let us live out our family life accordingly.

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

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

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



April Days of Note



April Birthdays

- 7th – Helen Wankowski
- 12th – Michael Oleniacz
- 14th – Karen Barnes
- 16th – John Michalczyk
- 17th – Robert Mondok
- 18th – Megan Kasperczyk
- 20th – Sheri Ference
- 22nd – Julie Koehler
- 25th – Marilyn Burger
- 27th – Natalie Kasperczyk
- 29th – Nick Sivik



April Anniversaries

- 1st — Tom & Karen Bedocs
- 28th — Zbigniew & Elizabeth Staranowski



"The Glory of the Resurrection"

No resurrection no life
beyond the grave.
No hope of Heaven
for none would be saved.
There would be no forgiveness
for our sin
and no hope for mankind
to begin again.

Jesus bore our sins
and took our stripes
through Him we may have
eternal life.
The resurrection was part
of God's plan
to settle the sin debt for sinful man.

Had not our Lord hung on the cross
we all would remain
hopelessly lost.
Mankind owed a debt
we could not pay
the shedding of blood
was the only way.

The blood of animals,
the spotless lambs
did not suffice
to redeem fallen man.
It pleased God for Jesus
to give His life
so Jesus became
our perfect sacrifice.

Just as winter always
gives way to spring,
nature is revived
and birds begin to sing.
Death gave way to life
on resurrection day
and God raised Jesus
to show us the way.

If God can cause nature
to bring new birth
after a hard cold winter
covers the earth.
Then God can give a fresh start
to fallen man
by a new birth
and a chance to start again.

-- Lenora McHorter --

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 Bengala	Gerald Beres
Polly Gajda	Frank & Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Gail Perz	Amy Dreger

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 Dzurowff	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
Mary Cawley	Edna Samelson
Kim Blaha	Geri S.
Wanda Heffner	Larry Bernacki
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	Mike Sikut
George & Linda Makovicka	Tom Putynski

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

Gene Mora

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY

ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org