

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2018

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Bishop Bilinski

This article of the newsletter is dedicated to the memory our departed Diocesan Bishop and former pastor, the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, and really is a personal recollection and reflection.

Almost five years ago to the day (November 11) I knew that I had some large shoes to fill when my wife Natalie and I moved to Ohio, following my predecessor, Father-then-Bishop Stanley Bilinski. It wasn't the first time I followed. He was chaplain at the Kurs encampment (week-long PNCC summer camp) for a few years before I took on the mantle for a few years. And even when I was chaplain, he made the trip from out west to speak to and minister to the children.

Did you know that I was the very first person in the entire Polish National Catholic Church who knew that Father Stanley Bilinski was elected to be bish-



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op at the Special Synod in 2011? I could barely stifle my smile as I brought the results of the electronic election to Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. We subsequently gave Bishop-elect a standing ovation in the Youth Center of St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

Bishop chose me and my dad to stand with him as his "Assistants to the Bishop-Elect" at his consecration. My dad was his seminary classmate from day 1 to their day of Ordination, along with Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. I remember taking the phone call when he asked me to stand with him, his reasoning, and that he was choosing my dad as well. It really was an honor. Our gift to him for his consecration was given after a consultation with his daughter, Hannah: the brightest, rosiest (not pinkest) vestments on God's green earth.

I had a tough time in Seminary with the then Prime Bishop. He thought he knew what was best for me, I thought I knew what was best for me, he was wrong...I was wrong. But Bishop Stanley was an advocate for us seminarians. He listened to our worries, our frustrations, and promised he would bring everything up at the next seminary board meeting. Sometimes, it

worked – he was instrumental in bringing that building into the 21st century technology-wise. Sometimes, he'd just shrug and say he tried. He helped talk me off the ledge when a misunderstanding of how social media "worked" led the former Prime Bishop to threaten to withhold my Ordination. Luckily, cooler heads prevailed, but not until Bishop Stanley took the brunt of my frustrations.

At Convo 2002, I was a dumb 19 year old scoping out the State University of New York-Albany campus. I had a college track meet there months earlier so I knew the place well enough. I took my buddy, now the US Army's own Captain Scott Krasko for a walk, where we found random life-sized cardboard cut-outs of movie characters like Jar Jar Binks from Star Wars, Harry Potter, a Terminator, and so on. What we didn't know is that they were placed in planned, thought-out locations by Father Stanley, National PNCC Youth Chaplain. What we did was place them in elevators, a car, and other terrible random places, ruining Father Stanley's plans... thankfully, he thought this minor vandalism to be funny...or at the very least, forgivable.

When I found out Bishop had died, it was a shock...but we knew his health wasn't great. Natalie and I spoke of his health often, bishop having asked her about a medication or two and Natalie, ever the professional, speaking in veiled terms to protect the pa-

Fr. Jason's Article (Cont)

tient's information. My wife was with me when the phone rang, and we hugged and we cried. We thought about our wedding day.

Natalie and I got married at 1:30 pm on a Saturday. I was a priest at St. Stanislaus Cathedral for almost 7 years, and my wife was the latest-arriving bride to any wedding in my time there, a full 26 minutes late. Who was there to talk not only me off the ledge, but my nervous brother who had to make a best man speech? Father Stanley, of course. And who stayed and commiserated

and waited for 2 hours and went to the reception and, though he had a 4 hour drive and Mass the next morning, stuck it out to listen to Andrew's (terrible) best man speech? Father Stanley...

The more I think about the events of my life as a priest...and before...the more I seem to find Bishop Stanley's fingerprints on it. Like many, I kinda sorta don't think I appreciated our relationship on that level.

It is probably because once he became bishop...he became A BISHOP. And once I moved to St. Mary's, he became my boss. In life, we complain to our boss, we complain about our boss, we wonder why we sometimes can't get ahold of the boss. Our relationship changed...for the most part. When he called, it could sometimes be so official...or it could be kibitzing with no end in sight. In fact, in the middle of our most recent PolishFest, I sat in my car while the event was going on while he was in Florida, and we planned the elevation to Sub-

Deacon for Cleric Jim....the one that never happened (it will).

Father Stan laid his hands upon my head at my ordination, one of many clergy who were there that day. I could remember him looking me in the eye afterward and telling me that we were now equals...which I did not believe in the least.

And now, we couldn't be farther. He rejoices in the company of the Saints in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus, in Matthew's gospel (25:23), says it the best: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."



PNCC XXV General Synod

The 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church took place at the Our Lady of Snows Retreat Center and facility in Belleville, IL.

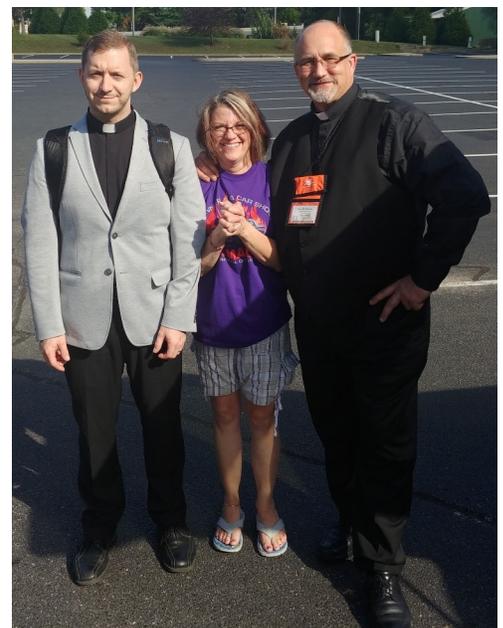
The General Synod is the highest governing body of the Polish National Catholic Church. It consists of the active Bishops, each parish pastor, one representative per parish per 50 members, and a few various assigned delegates.

The Synod this year was quite typical: reports were received, some constitutional amendments were proposed, few were voted into place, and we spent some time on

Future Directions "stuff."

One of the main amendments involved the removal of term limits for our prelate (or "lead clergyman", on our case, the Prime Bishop). This allows us to fall in line with most mainline Christian Denominations. Remaining is the fact that he must be up for election every 8th year. Our current Prime Bishop, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, was elected to his second 8 year term at the Synod.

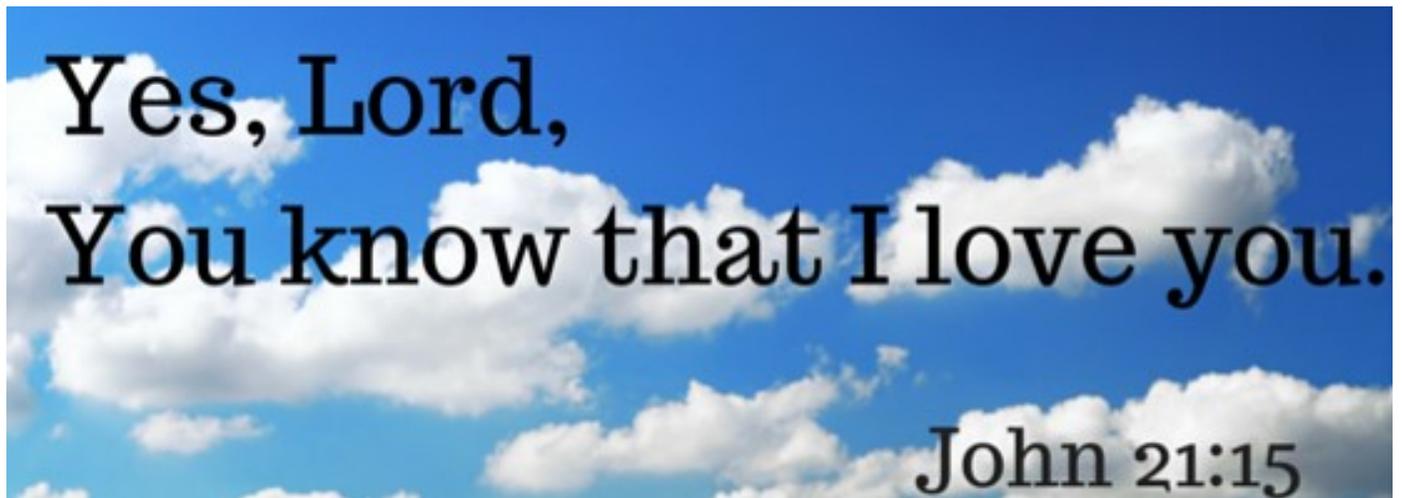
Father Jason represented St. Mary's as Pastor while Cleric Jim Ploskonka and Elaine Ploskonka were elected at a meeting a number of months ago.



Post-Synodal Meeting

As per our recent parish custom, we held a post-synodal recap meeting, letting the congregation know what happened and what was discussed at the previous week's synod.

Our three attendees each gave a portion of the report and answered questions from those in attendance. The meeting was held in between Holy Masses on Sunday, October 7th.



Youth Group Halloween Party

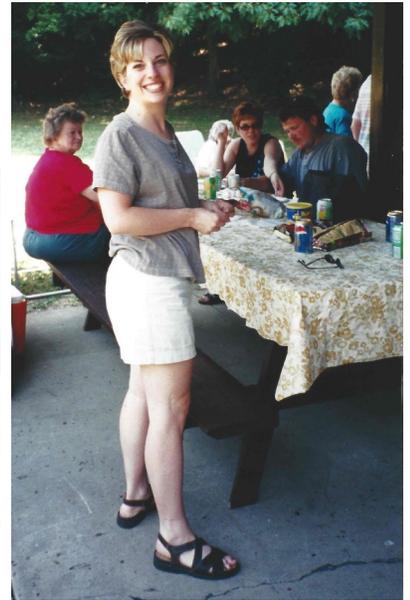
The Annual Youth Group Halloween Party took place after SOCL on Sunday, October 28. The children were invited to wear their costumes to church and to Sunday School that day.

Games, snacks, pizza, soda, and other fun things were provided. Though our group may be small in number, it was huge in fun that day!



Remember When?

No tremendous mystery with these two pictures, just a bit of parish fellowship history. These two pictures are both from the end of July, 2001. Recognize anyone?



YMSofR Chili Cookoff

The Annual Branch #29 YMSofR Chili Cook-off took place on Sunday, October 28 after the 11am Holy Mass.

In association with a Cleveland Browns game, we have held this cookoff for a number of years now. There are prizes for the two winners, a few door prizes, and enough food to feed the entire parish! Congratulations to our two winners....repeats of last year! They must be

good cooks or something! Josephine Ference and Barbara Fesz. Negative congratulations to David Micka, who bought Wendy's chili and put it in a crockpot.

Thanks to all who attended and especially to our coordinator, Ron Ference—we'll do it again next year and who knows? Maybe someday the Browns will win!



Animal Blessing

One of the best days of the year is when we call for the pets of our parishioners and of our local community to come and be blessed on our parish grounds.

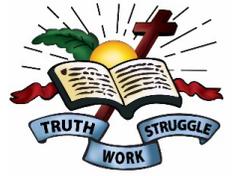
A collection of dogs, cats and even a very special hedgehog approached God's blessing at the 6:30pm service on the Feast Day of St. Francis, October 4. Some were quite outgoing and ready to mingle, while others gave their owners strict instructions to make sure they were allowed to stay inside a climate-controlled vehicle.

Father Jason and Cleric Jim led the service, which concluded with a blessing done with Holy Water. May the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi on behalf of our beloved pets remain strong and ringing at God's throne of mercy!



PNCC Future Directions Update

Solemnity of All Saints - November 1, 2018

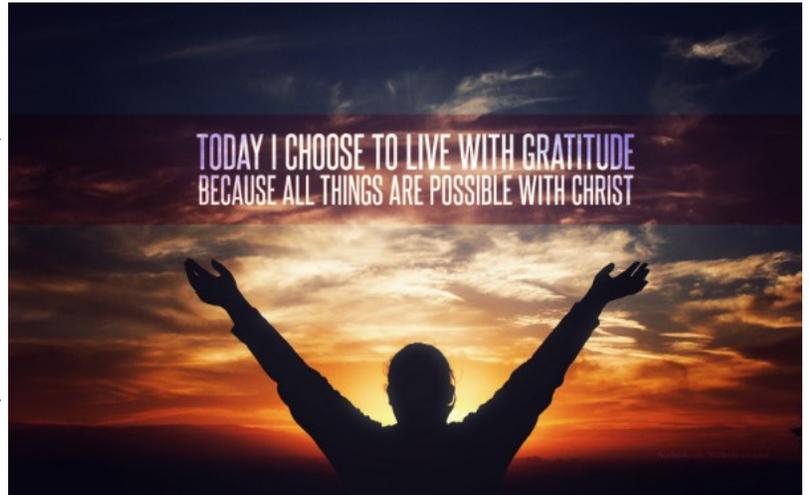


Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,

“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”. *Colossians 3:17*

As we continue in this Year of the Family across our Holy Polish National Catholic Church we focus during this month of November on this quote from the second reading of the Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Christian Family about giving thanks. We are called as God's Holy People to give thanks in both our individual and parish families.

We begin this month with the Solemnity of All Saints – a holy day of obligation where we honor those who have gone before us as an example of virtuous living as faithful and committed disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in His Holy Church. Which saints do we emulate in our lives?



We also celebrate a great national holiday of Thanksgiving on the 4th Thursday of November. How do we show thanks to God for all the blessing He has given us as a family and as a parish? One of the suggested Gospels for this day is that of the healing of the ten lepers (*Luke 17:11-19*). As you think about this healing during Jesus' ministry – where do you place yourself? Are you like the one who made the effort to come and give thanks or like the nine that did not give thanks?

Let us during this special month make the time to give thanks. There are so many ways this can be done. Here are a few...

- * Send an actual note in the mail to someone; Open your heart and respond with love, no matter what; Praise and thank others – make the effort to say those two words; Share your gifts (time, talent, treasure) with others; Pay it forward with a kind deed; Give small but thoughtful gifts to say Thank you; When you say Thank You – Actually mean it; Volunteer; Make a donation to the Church or a worthy cause in someone's name; Be Kind to others and give a helping hand

- * On Thanksgiving Day make time to give thanks. Attend Holy Mass on this day as a family. Offer a special prayer on Thanksgiving Day – a Thanksgiving Table prayer – a special Thanksgiving Placemat is attached for your tables (Email Fr. Jason if you would like this forwarded to you). One in color and one in black and white for any children and adults who may want to color it in. Encourage each person to say what they are thankful for as well during the meal.



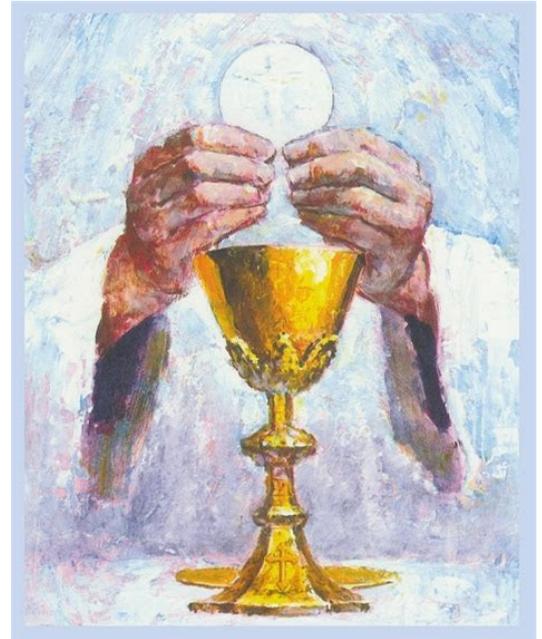
PNCC Future Directions Update (continued)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (2010 PNCC Prayer Book)

Father all powerful, Your gifts are countless and Your goodness infinite. We come to You, O God, offering our most humble and heartfelt thanks for the many blessings we have received from You. Open our hearts to the needs of others, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service. Teach us to express our thanksgiving not only with our lips, but in all that we do. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Immediate action item for implementation from Holy Synod for Increased Spirituality. A 10 to 15 minute business free zone prior to the celebration of Holy Mass for priest and faithful. Use at least page 8 of the Mass booklets for spiritual preparation as well as other introductory pages. Let us prepare properly for the wonderful gifts of Christ in the Eucharist and hearing of God's Word during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.



We wish you, your family and parish family a blessed month filled with gratitude to God for all the blessings he has given us. Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving and please go give thanks!

Various Announcements

BISHOP BILINSKI

Following our Parish Committee Meeting last Sunday, we have decided to honor Bishop Bilinski by having a parish-wide collection at Holy Mass next Sunday, November 25. At both Holy Masses, there will be collection baskets going around again after Communion directly for the Clergy Pension Fund of the PNCC, the offering asked of Bishop's family. The Parish has offered to match/finish the collection until we get to a donation of \$1000 from the good people here at St. Mary's. There is also a bereavement card to sign today and next Sunday that we will include in our mailing to Chicago.

CLERIC'S ELEVATION

The elevation of Cleric Jim Ploskonka through the Order of Acolyte and to Sub-Deacon will still be taking place, at a time, date and location TBA.

ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCES

The remembrance list (wypominki) was read at the Mass of All Souls Day on November 2. However, our tradition holds that you may continue submitting names for remembrance

and they will be read aloud at Sunday Mass and kept in prayer by your pastor. Envelopes can be found around the church or in the board room. If your submission was not read yet at Sunday Mass, it will be before November ends. Mass on Thursday, November 29th will have the intention of our entire submitted prayer list.

KIELBASA

St. Mary's choir's famous fresh kielbasa will be available soon, most likely for \$5/pound. Orders can be made to Chris Paulus and would be appreciated by Nov. 30.

OPERATION: CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our collection has concluded. Thank you to any and all who donated for this very worthy function – as a side note for any donations, Samaritan's Purse is one of the "purest" places to make a charitable donation.

INTERESTED?

Some parishioners will be approached in the coming weeks regarding serving on the Parish (Committee) Board. The ministry of administration is very important in the PNCC – please consider! The election

of Officers meeting takes place after 9am Mass on Sunday, Dec 2nd.

VISITATIONS

If you have a family member or know of a parishioner that can use a pastoral visit or hasn't been visited, please contact Fr. Jason. As the holidays approach, we want to make sure our parishioners are spiritually tended-to.

CRAFT FAIR

Thanks to all who attended, baked for, or patronized last weekend's Craft Fair. A huge note of thanks to the "the boss", Mary Ann Kasperczyk, who continues to plan and execute our Craft Fair.

PTO BASKET RAFFLE

Per the (wonderful) usual, the PTO will be sponsoring a Christmas Basket Raffle in the upcoming weeks. They are always looking for donations – Please see Marge O'Connor or Debbie Moritz for any suggestions or questions on how you can help.

FOOD COLLECTION

During the weeks of Advent, we will have a guided food collection. There will be a collection table placed in the back of the church, with non-perishable items needed to fill it! The items will then be donated to our local food bank, Parma Hunger Center, located across the street at Parma Lutheran church.

November Days of Note



November

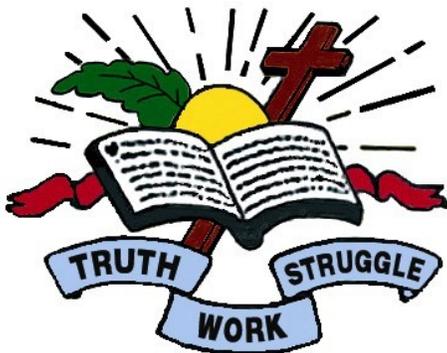
- 1 - Brady Soltysiak
- 5 - Ron Ference
- 6 - Alice Petrie
- 7 - Kathleen Beres
- 11 - Mike Matis
- 15 - Mary Ann Loschelder
- 16 - Craig Atherton
- 16 - Mike Paulus
- 21 - Krista O'Connor
- 22 - Josephine Ference
- 24 - Jeff Dreger
- 25 - Michael Petrie
- 29 - Barb Baranowski
- 29 - Eliza Dreger



Happy Anniversary

November

- 5 - Dale & Pattie Dotson



Litany of Praise & Thanksgiving

Sirach 51:11-12

I will ever praise Your name, and be constant in my prayers to You. There-upon the Lord heard my voice, He listened to my appeal; He saved me from evil of every kind and preserved me in time of trouble. For this reason I thank Him and I praise Him; I bless the name of the Lord.

Following Sirach 51:12 in the Hebrew Text

this Litany appears.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to the God of glory,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to the guardian of Israel,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to the Creator of the universe,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to the Redeemer of Israel,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to Him Who gathers the dispersed of Israel,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to Him Who builds His city and His sanctuary,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to Him Who makes a horn sprout forth, for the house of David,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to Him Who has chosen for His priests the sons of Zadok,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to the shield of Abraham,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to the rock of Isaac,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to the mighty one of Jacob,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to Him Who has chosen Zion,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 Give thanks to the king over kings of kings,
R: for His mercy endures forever;
 He has lifted up the horn of His people,
R: be this His praise from all His faithful ones,
 From the children of Israel, the people close to Him. **R: Alleluia!**

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 | Tom Putynski |
| Polly Gajda | Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Louise Cygan |
| Helen Budney | Bruno Tracy |
| Chester & Ann Warzala | Tom Petrie |
| Amy Dreger | Patti Dotson |
| Halina Dreger | Jack Spilka |

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 Dzurhoff | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Cherise Pacanovsky | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Michalczyk | Bill Hinton |
| Nan Cramer | Mike Sikut |
| Bp. John Mack | David Vaden |
| Bp. John Swantek | Jeannie Bartko Muran |
| Mary Cawley | Edna Samelson |
| Anthony Soltysiak | Geri S. |
| Wanda Heffner | Larry Bernacki |
| Donna Kidd | Paulette Lilli |
| Muffie B. | Nancy Jablonowski |
| Marilyn Girard | Courtney Austin |
| Stephanie Milla | Rich Dombrowski |
| Shannon Alberino | Jayden Pieciak |
| Jeremy Steinbrick | Katie Stallbaum |
| Marcia Klein | Julia Badarzynski |
| George & Linda Makovicka | Julie L. |
| Kelly B | Barbara B. |
| Loretta Baldwin | Michael McGivern |
| | Julie R. |

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

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