

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

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

**January 2019**

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## What Makes Penance?

Though there are a ton of opportunities to speak, write, or preach about Penance within the Catholic structure, I actually wanted to take this opportunity to do so because of a few recent occurrences.

Namely, we have had a number of new visitors to Mass, be it from a Baptism to Christmas to Sunday Mass, many of them familiar enough with the Mass to assume that they came from the Roman Catholic Denomination.

However, there is one big difference (ok, there are a few!) that I wanted to tackle in this article, and how we address it versus how others do: the Sacrament of Penance.

For those unfamiliar, we offer the reception of the Sacrament of Penance in two unique ways: aural, that is, the well-known way where a worshipper confesses to the priest, be it in a confessional booth or wherever, and public.

Since Funeral Masses sometimes bring in



a mix of people where the vast majority is unfamiliar with our Mass, it gives me the opportunity, as the celebrant, to do a bit of teaching. I use the phrase “public confession” because of the historical nature of that phrase. I mention, with a smile, that it does not mean we all start yelling out our sins; I explain that this is a private examination with a private confession to God. Like aural (private) confession, the priest is the “minister of the Sacrament”, providing the Absolution that is necessary to perform (along with having sorrow and sincerely desiring not to repeat the sin) in order to have those sins forgiven by God. What makes it “public” is the communal strength of prayer: we all approach God’s house as sinners, and we all resolve to be better versions of His perfect creation, receiving His Son’s Body and Blood as was commanded.

When I entered seminary, I could barely believe that there could be a full course on Sacramentology...but really, there could’ve easily been years of study on each one. Based on scripture, its roots are from John 20:19-23 “When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples

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rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Not just an author of the shortest Canon/Eucharistic Prayer we use, St. Hippolytus wrote in 215 AD in *Apostolic Tradition* a number of things that would refer to the now-forming Sacrament. Among them included...occupations of people who needed to change their occupation before being initiated in the church! Some are obvious: prostitutes, sculptors of pagan idols, executioners, gladiators, sorcerers. Some were a tough shake! These include actors, city magistrates, wrestlers, and charioteers. Renouncing the occupation only began the long process to be a member of the faithful—by entering the catechumenate. They were allowed to do some, but not all, of what the baptized could do.

And once you were “in”, didn’t mean you stayed “in.” The order of Penitents were those who didn’t live up to the Christian way of life and needed to go through a re-formation of religious/ church development. The preparation was now not for Baptism (which has a forgiving, soul-cleansing aspect to it), but for Penance, and one that would be viewed as a bit more aggressive than today.

### Fr. Jason's Article (cont)

Absolution for that penance would often be done on Holy Thursday, offered by the Bishop and reconciled publicly—hence, the public nature of penance that we continue to share was on display then. Though public “confession” was not widely used, the “doing of” the assigned stuff as well as the bishop’s absolution certainly was public.

In the July 2014 Issue of *God's Field*, our Prime Bishop, Anthony Mikovsky, offered his research on how the PNCC developed our usage of the Sacrament of Penance: “During the Fourth General Synod, held in Scranton, PA in June of 1921, Bishop Francis Hodur put forward the following ruling concerning general confession which was unanimously accepted, “Public confession, general or particular, has in the Polish National Catholic Church the same significance as private or

auricular confession. It is one of the necessary conditions of penance, that holy act ordained by Jesus Christ for the rebirth of a person and the uniting of him with God.” After the Synodal meeting, all the delegates went to St. Stanislaus Cathedral to hear Bishop Hodur speak about Penance and to receive the Sacrament. In that discussion concerning the sacramental rites he said, “At the bottom of all these rites and penitential functions always inhered and inheres Christ’s principle that without contrition, confession of errors and the desire for a change in life, there is no forgiveness, absolution and spiritual regeneration. Without these three acts, external penance is meaningless.”

The Sacrament of Penance is always available, not just in the construct of the Mass, but of course, when it is needed. As I referred to the Early

Church of the time of St. Hippolytus, that entire long process of reconciliation and the big-time Holy Thursday penance was a one-time thing. If you messed up again then...welp, you were in a bit of trouble!

Penance is the Sacrament before all Sacraments—this is why it begins our Mass, so our souls are clear before we hear The Word, before we accept the Eucharist. Couples receive it before marriage, it is part of Unction, it is inherent in Baptism, and it is a must before Confirmation. And you better believe it is that last big talk a man working through Holy Orders has before one of his big days.

So there it is—an incomplete history of the Sacrament. Scriptural, formative, alive, and still evolving today. One we must take seriously...and in our words, our actions and thoughts, one we must not neglect.

Fr. Jason

### Advent Scenes

The time of preparation for the Feast of the Incarnation constitutes Advent. It is always the 4 Sundays (and portion of that 4th week) before December 25th, ranging from a bit over

3 weeks to 4 full weeks.

Our solemn Advent this past December included the blessing of the Advent Wreath, blessing of Oplatki, and weekly prayers and readings as each Advent Candle was lit.

Also, an Advent-themed penitential service began one of our Sundays of worship. As we counted down to Christmas, we did so with prophecy and prayer.



## ADVENT 2018

DEC 2- DEC 24



## Kielbasa Making & Hall Prep

Our December always kicks off with a day devoted to kielbasa making. This is a fundraiser of the choir that they do for Christmas and Easter every year. It helps to fund the trips to the Diocesan or National Concerts/Conventions.

Enjoy some of the snapshots from this year's garlicky, meaty, and delicious day.

While the choir (and friends) were busy putting together orders for nearly a half-ton of kielbasa, the PTO was changing (decking?) the halls into winter wonderlands. May God continue to inspire their creativity and dedication!



**I**  **Kielbasa**

  
**DECORATE**  
the Church



## PolkaFest!

On Sunday, December 9, St. Mary's downstairs hall played host to our first "PolkaFest", an event with a visiting Polka band, an open kitchen, a cash bar, and raffles.

Jodie Maddie and the Uptown Sound was our band for the afternoon, and they offered hours of their own songs, popular Polka hits, and even some kolenda to keep in with the spirit of the season.

Though St. Mary's has had a Polka band for a few of the last PolishFest events over the summer, this was our first exclusive Polka event in...decades, we think. It was very well-attended, with just a couple of chairs left empty. The crowd left appeased, pinning for the next time we would play host to another afternoon of fun. Stay tuned!



## PTO Party

The PTO Christmas Party is the Granddaddy of them all, replete with an incredible basket raffle, food from all over Northeast Ohio, entertainment from the premier parish vice-chair, and, of course, a visit from Jolly Ol' St. Nick.

The event always takes place either the 3rd or 4th Sunday of Advent, depending on how close to Christmas. Our party took place on December 16 this year, hosted as always by the St. Mary's PTO.

Much appreciation to everyone who supported this wonderful venture!



## Christmas 2018

The Celebration of the Lord's Nativity is always one to cherish, and we do so at St. Mary's each and every year.

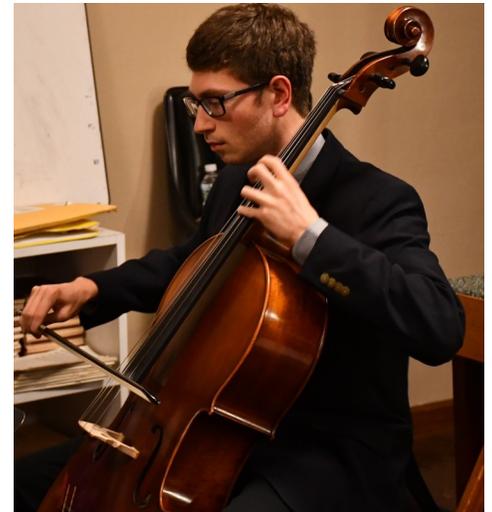
Everything begins with *Pasterka*, or Mass of the Shepherds, which we hold on to the tradition of celebrating at Midnight. The late hour is representative of God's revelation to the shepherds that the Savior was born. It was from this moment that the heavens opened and the "Gloria of the Heavens" was sung from on high.

The next morning, we celebrate the Mass of Light, with our liturgy showing God's new light for his people. Throughout both Masses, we use incense at appropriate times to show



the holiness of the day.

Christ is Born! May all Christians rejoice, as we celebrate the 40 Day season through February 2nd!



## A Note from the Chair

Another new year has begun and with that I wish all of you a Healthy, Happy, Prosperous, and Peaceful one!

I thank you and express my appreciation to St. Mary's parishioners for once again electing me to the office of Chair of our parish committee for 2019. As I've shared before, I truly enjoy offering my time and talent to the needs of our parish and to all of you! I also want to thank you for the election of all the parishioners that make up the remainder of the board. Our goal is to discover, discuss, and determine all that is necessary to keep our building in good working order, keep our membership growing and keep our parish life moving forward within St. Mary's, our PNC Church, and our community. We will continue to work together to accomplish this, always keeping the best interest of our parish in mind.



### The Year in Review

Our Financial State – Room for improvement. We fell somewhat short because of the unfortunate weather that was presented to us during our annual PolishFest (maybe a test to see how we would overcome?). We jumped back up and tried to make up for some of the lost profit in part by holding a polka dance aka PolkaFest, which, as you read through the rest of the newsletter, see was a great success! It is a given that we need to continue with fundraisers – will *you* be able to help more in some fashion this year?

Our Parish Meetings (every one of us as members in good financial standing have the privilege of having a voice and a vote in what happens in our parish) – Room for improvement. The attendance at our 2018 annual meeting, and even more so at our semi-annual meeting, was noticeably lower than it could have been. Our meetings are important – will *you* attend them this year?

Our Spiritual Duties – Room for improvement. It is defined in our PNCC Constitution that “Members of this Church have a twofold duty: spiritual and material.” In part, our spiritual duties include active participation in the sacramental life of the Church and part of that is specified as hearing the Word of God and receiving the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion as often as possible. I would say on average we have about 60 parishioners in attendance on Sunday mornings. There are

still a number of empty pews we would love to fill. What is very disheartening is that during our Lenten Services, May Devotions, and other special Holy Days during the year our church is at times almost empty – will *you* make time for attending church more often?

Knowing there is always room for improvement is an important realization but it is just as important to be proud of what has been accomplished. We can be proud of the year we had with the success of many of our fundraisers, the welcoming of new members, the enjoyment of the new generation of babies that are bringing life to the parish and smiles to our faces, and the continued friendships we hold close within our St. Mary's family. As we move into 2019 I ask all of you individually to reflect on what your participation was in St. Mary's life last year. Take to heart our spiritual and material duties as members of the PNCC, realize the importance of our existence as a parish within our Church, and decide how *you* can be a part of an extraordinary new year.

### Music Scholarship Sunday

We are reminded at this time every year that the last Sunday of January is designated as Music Scholarship Sunday throughout the PNCC. The ongoing generosity of the faithful and careful financial management by the National United Choirs allows the music scholarship program to continue to thrive. At the completion of 2018, 1,095 scholarships have been awarded since the inception of this program in 1966. A number of St. Mary's parishioners have been recipients of these scholarships over the years and we continue to have parishioners taking advantage of this valuable program. The awards give financial assistance to those interested in serving the ministry through music. Parishioners of all ages throughout our Church submit applications which express their talents, whether instrumental or vocal. Awards are given out annually to deserving applicants.



Please encourage both youth and adults who are studying music, or who may be interested in beginning their studies, to apply for a scholarship. This year's applications are being accepted from January 1 to May 1. Donations are accepted throughout the year. Visit [www.nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com](http://www.nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com) for detailed information and scholarship applications or talk to Chris Paulus or Cleric Jim.

## A Note from the Chair

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18 – 25. I offer you prayers to share in hope of creating a chain of prayers for Christian Unity among us all.

*God, we thank you for the confidence and blessing which you offer to those who work for the coming of your reign in this world. Help us to find new ways of carrying out your work in the service of those around us. May we serve, rather than seek to be served, and may your healing power be at work among us. United as one family of your only Son, may we be faithful stewards of your creation so that you may be known by all men and women, great and small, by all things and all people, as the true living savior and creator of all. Amen.*

*Eternal God, you created heaven and earth, you created human beings in your image, giving each of us identity and dignity. We thank you for your gift of life – life which binds us to you and to your creation. Help us – as Christians and as churches – to receive your gift in all its fullness so that we may be able to overcome whatever limits or reduces your gift of life. Fill us with your good Spirit so that we may grow into the image of Christ and become his image in the world. Amen*



### Newsletter Distribution

A couple years ago we reached out to everyone receiving the newsletter in order to update our mailing list, including address changes, and distribution method as needed. As you know the monthly newsletter is available to parishioners and friends either at church, through the postal service, via email, or through our website. Our goal is to meet your needs by keeping it as convenient and easy for everyone to read and enjoy! All methods are acceptable.

Many of you have requested receipt of the newsletter via email. This method eliminates the postage and paper expense while actually giving readers a much better look at the many pictures Fr. Jason so enjoys sharing! We also understand many of you simply prefer the paper copy for your own convenience and that you may not have the capability/desire to receive it electronically.

The list still includes those that, due to a lack of contact with the parish, we believe may not share an interest in our activities any longer. We are happy to continue sharing the life of St. Mary's with everyone that is interested but also hope to lessen our monthly paper and postage expense by removing people from our list that no longer wish to receive the newsletter.

If you would like to change the method of receiving your newsletter or would like to be removed from the list for whatever reason please let me or Father know at your earliest convenience so we can complete the process of this update. We are both available at church or thru the contact information listed on page 1. Thank you in advance for taking the time to let us know and for your understanding!

### New Members

St. Mary's offers a warm welcome to Mark & Cathy Avondet and George & Patty Bennett. After several Sunday visits during the end of last year they chose to join our parish family in December. I hope you've had the opportunity to meet and talk with them.

We also welcome Steven, Astrid & Lucas Wisniewski. Steven is the son of Mike & Barb Wisniewski. You may recall reading that Lucas was baptized here just after Christmas. Unfortunately we won't be seeing them very often on Sunday mornings as they are currently living in New York. We look forward to their visits and hopefully one day being close enough for regular Sunday worship.

We pray that our new members will find a true Christian home with us to worship the Lord and work for his Kingdom.

### 2019 Offering Envelopes

This year's offering envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall. Although most of them have been picked up there are still some left to be distributed. If you would like your envelopes but will be unable to come to church for them please let me know and arrangements will be made to get them to you.

### A Little Laughter

The substitute teacher was struggling to open a lock on the Sunday school supply cabinet. She'd been told the combination but couldn't quite remember it. Finally she went to the pastor's study and asked for help. When the pastor began to twist the dial, he paused after the first couple numbers and stared blankly. Finally he looked heavenward and his lips moved silently, then he looked back at the lock, turned to the final numbers, and clicked open the hasp. The teach was amazed. "I'm in awe of your faith, Pastor." "It's really nothing," he responded. "The numbers are on a piece of tape on the ceiling."

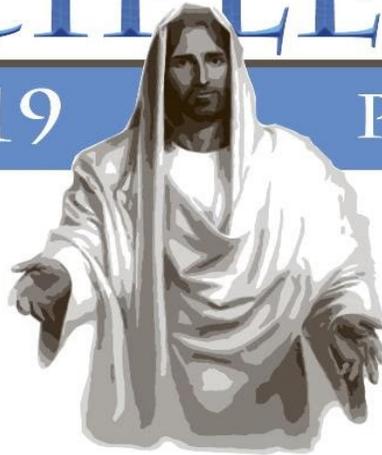


PNCC Future Directions Update

# DISCIPLESHIP

2019

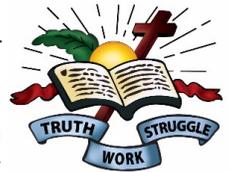
PNCC



January 1, 2019

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

We begin this New Year in our Lord 2019 and our Holy Church focuses on Discipleship. As our Lord said to His disciples "Follow Me" for His public ministry, He continues to call us to follow Him and wants our relationship with Him to grow and strengthen as the days, months and years goes by. Our PNCC is calling us to renew our Discipleship in our Lord this year and as we begin 2019 we have a special message from our Prime Bishop and a reflection on Renewed Discipleship by Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill. May we take these words to heart and grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this new year!



**Renewed Discipleship in 2019:** With the hanging of each new calendar, we are gifted by God with the opportunity for a fresh start. Most of us enthusiastically embrace this chance for a personal reboot in the form of "New Year's resolutions," which cover everything from improving our personal health and increasing our physical fitness to strengthening our relationships with other people or even bettering our financial situation. Some of them entail wholesale changes to the way we live, while others call for smaller, simpler modifications to our daily routines. Certain people, exhibiting intense dedication and deep-seated self-discipline, seem to be able to make continual headway toward meeting their goals throughout the entire year, while others with their own laser-focused attention, whole-hearted efforts and more than a few prayers for help and cries for mercy, also make steady and consistent progress...until right around the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. (*Yes, 'm looking at you, 2018 goal to run 6 miles every morning at 5 AM.*)

Regardless of how far into the New Year we actually make it before throwing in the towel, it is paramount that we all recognize that true success in each of these sincere endeavors can really only be measured by a single-criteria: *perseverance*. After all, we are all works in progress and (aside from a miraculous intervention akin to the conversion of one Saul of Tarsus) none of us is transformed in an instant. Further, all of these efforts are underpinned by the results of an honest self-assessment and motivated by a single implicit acknowledgement: the need to change. It is when we put these two points together, that we come to see the essence of every realistic New Year's resolution, regardless of its particular object: *a sincere commitment to just keep working to be better.*

With hopeful hearts and open minds, we Polish National Catholics are about to collectively embark upon a year-long consideration of what it truly means to be disciples of Jesus Christ. This will give each of us the chance to further fortify areas of our lives that are already spiritually and morally well-ordered and also the opportunity to formally recognize and actively address aspects yet in need of improvement. Throughout the year, we will be presented with matters for prayer, topics for reflection, chances for honest introspection and opportunities to act—all aimed toward the single goal of becoming more authentic disciples of the Lord Jesus. Knowing this, it makes sense that we begin these efforts by briefly considering what Christian discipleship really means.

In the most basic sense, a disciple is a student, and we all know from experience that every student, regardless of the course of study, needs a teacher. The ongoing process of exploring one's relationship with God and growing in the

## PNCC Future Directions Update (continued, 2 of 3)

spiritual life is no different. During the time of our Lord Jesus' earthly life, many wished to more fully understand their own place within the covenants made by the God of Israel with his chosen people Israel. They earnestly desired to delve more deeply into the Law and the Prophets, hoping to gain clearer insight into what God expected from them. To guide them in this, they would choose a particular rabbi, under whose tutelage they would study for a period of time. Sometimes the students would even travel with the more famous rabbis, seeking to learn not just from their instruction but by emulating their example.

This was not simply an academic pursuit for its own sake, however, for they were all seeking something much deeper. They knew that they needed to change, to grow, to improve, and they were looking for someone to teach them—to give them a vision of who they could become and a how to accomplish this. Eventually, though, the disciples would have learned all that the rabbi had to teach them through their instruction and example and they would move on, with some of them becoming rabbis themselves.

St. John the Baptist played a similar role for a little while with many different people coming to him in search of something better. The Forerunner not only confirmed their need for conversion, he explained what they should do and, perhaps most importantly, he led by his own example. But even his time as their teacher came to an end, when along came the One whom the Baptist himself proclaimed as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1: 29). Along came the Teacher of teachers and he changed discipleship in two important ways.

First, the Lord Jesus spoke clearly when proclaiming to his disciples at the Last Supper, that “you did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...” (John 15:16). In this moment, we see Jesus THE Teacher, assembling his school—indeed, the Church—pupil by pupil, disciple by disciple, and letting them know there would be expectations for them. What inexpressible joy should fill our hearts when we hear these words! What consolation and hope should come from knowing that the Lord has called *each of us* by name and has made us his very own in the waters of Baptism! Jesus the Divine Teacher has chosen us to be his disciples, and understanding this even a little should give us a sense of self-worth solidly rooted in the loving esteem with which the Lord holds his people.

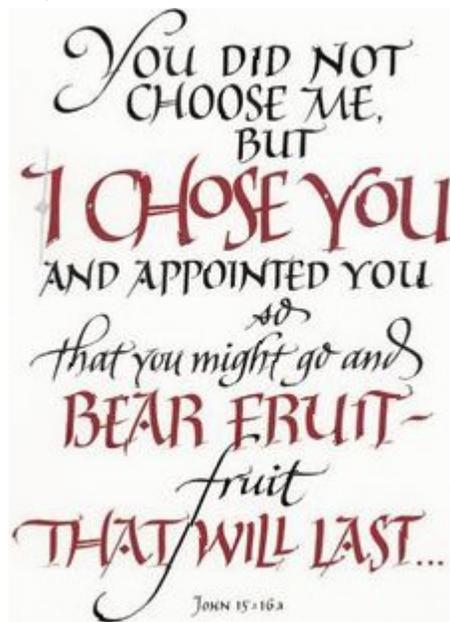
Second, Jesus established *eternal* relationships with his disciples. We must never think that our own discipleship was merely a period of training that ended with Confirmation or whenever we last attended a class in our parish's School of Christian Living. Quite to the contrary, Christian discipleship is *permanent* as Jesus always has more to teach us, more of Himself to reveal to us, greater works of service for us to embrace on his behalf, ever-greater efforts of self-improvement that he would have us fervently engage. After all, he sets the bar pretty high for his disciples: “You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

Our Lord radically transformed the nature of the relationship between teacher and student in that *He, Himself, is* the perfect teacher (Jn 13:13), *He, Himself, is* the subject matter (14:6) and *He, Himself, is even* the didactic methodology (Mt 11:28-30). **The ultimate end of discipleship is to grow ever closer to him, in every way, in every aspect of our lives.** He who started the Church by calling the Apostles by name to follow Him, has called all of us to *ongoing discipleship* as the irreplaceable foundation for the entire course of our lives, the standard by which we should make every decision and the surest principle of all our actions. Knowing this, we must always assiduously and consciously journey with Jesus our Teacher, recognizing that we will never arrive at our ultimate destination until we reach *the fullness* of that Kingdom which He inaugurated, about which the Church preaches and labors to build.

Therefore, as the New Year's resolutions fall from our lips, may they take the form of a sincere prayer of recommitment to the Lord and a promise to persistently engage our call to be authentic disciples of Jesus and everything that this entails, never giving up even should we stumble and fall for the Lord will always help us get back on the pathway that He has marked out.

Indeed, each new year brings to us an opportunity for a fresh start...and thanks be to God for that because we usually need it! We, as Polish National Catholics, will have the opportunity to embrace this together in 2019—may we do so with irrepressible joy. So, ring the bell! It's 2019 and...class is in session. But, then again, for us it's always in session.

**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



## PNCC Future Directions Update (continued, 3 of 3)

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.

As we begin this New Year in our Lord 2019 let us make the time to renew our discipleship in Christ Jesus our Lord. Wishing you a blessed, happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee**

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

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

### We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:

Growth and Membership  
Increase Spirituality  
Lifelong Learning  
Sacred Vocations  
Community Involvement and Presence  
**Action Plan for Discipleship: 2019**  
Develop and emphasize Discipleship throughout 2019  
Special Masses  
Create a Business Free Zone  
Adult Continuing Education  
Social Media Presence  
Two Days of Spiritual Retreat  
Complete Six Community Service Projects

## Various Announcements

### POTLUCK

After our 10am Mass Sunday, January 6, we did have one of our parish potlucks. We wish everyone came downstairs! There was enough food to feed another couple of dozen people. A festive time was enjoyed by those who attended, as we shared opłatki and enjoyed everything from salads to cheesecake to pastas to pierogi.

### ELEVATION OF CLERIC JIM

The elevation of Cleric Jim Ploskonka to the office of Sub-Deacon has been rescheduled and will take place at a 10am Mass on Sunday, February 3rd. Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, the Prime Bishop of the PNCC, will be celebrating the Mass and conferring the elevation. Please plan on attending this step in Cleric Ploskonka's journey to the diaconate as well as welcoming the prelate of our Church.

### MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Information for scholarships from the National United Choirs is available

by seeing the forms posted on the bulletin board or by talking to Chris Paulus or Cleric Ploskonka.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. Mary's takes place on Sunday, January 27 after 9am Mass. There will be no 11am Mass this day. Please exercise your democratic right as a Polish National Catholic and attend this Meeting, where your voice and vote are instrumental in the upcoming year of life at our beloved parish.

### SCHEDULING MASSES

Happy New Year! As the New Year has arrived, please be aware that Masses are open to be scheduled for 2019. Some dates have been filled, so if there is a date you normally keep, please make sure to inform Fr. Jason in person, via email, or by phone.

### STILL?

Our Christmas celebration hasn't ended yet, as we highlight our liturgy with Christmas Hymns for the entirety

of the 40 days of the Christmas Season. Though the world has moved on, the Church continues with joy the celebration of the Savior's birth.

### EPIPHANY BLESSINGS

Pastoral visits have begun – As a reminder, these visits are done in the name of the 3 Magi, with the home (and pets) blessed by the visiting pastor. Visits can be scheduled with Fr. Jason and can be as quick as 5 minutes or you can put on the coffee and converse for a while. Please reach out to him if interested.

### SOCK TREE

On behalf of the Love of God Sodality, thank you to all who have donated to the sock tree! The socks will be donated in the coming weeks, as has been the collected food from the food drive.

### UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE

Please note that there will be only one Mass at 10am on Sunday, Jan. 20th. There will be only one Mass (9am) on Sunday, Jan 27th with our Parish Annual Meeting to follow. On February 3rd, there will only be one Mass at 10am.

### January Days of Note



#### January Birthdays

- 1 Barbara Wisniewski
- 6 Katie Repede
- 7 Pattie Dotson  
Natalie Soltysiak
- 12 John Kasperczyk
- 14 Josie Matis
- 22 John Kobalka  
Tom Kugler
- 23 Pete Moritz

#### January Anniversaries

- 7 Andre & Audrey Spanjol
- 24 Mike & Barb Wisniewski



### The Journey of the Magi

'A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For the journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.'  
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly

And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying "That this was all folly."

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins,  
But there was no information, and so we continued  
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory

All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death,  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

T. S. Eliot

### 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       | Rhonda Smith             |
| 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               | Rose Petrosky            |
| 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         |

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

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