

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2019

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Focus through Distractions...

I had a really selfish thought the other day. I had it while celebrating Mass on a Wednesday afternoon in an empty church.

A Mass celebrated with no attendees is somewhat a rarity here perhaps a couple times per month or so. Usually, a desiring soul comes to one of the scheduled weekday Masses to offer God a half-hour or so of worship.

This particular Wednesday, though I was alone in church...and I was aggravated. It wasn't hot—The Good Lord knows we have a...warm... church...and the breeze was perfect, flowing through the open windows.

Ah, the open windows. A necessity for many months out of the year, and the bane of my existence this



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Phew.

I believe my selfish thought was along the lines of...are these people purposely trying to mess with church right now?! Didn't they hear the bells ring?

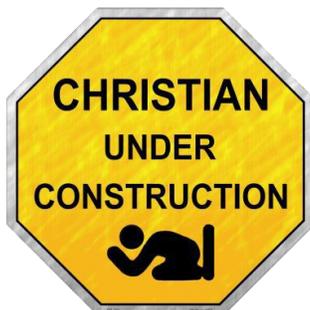
My next thought was of guilt, and self-loathing. They were just doing their job, same as me. Me, in a beautiful, weather-protected homage to our Creator, they in the burning early-autumn sun.

Mass paused for a while, as no one was there to check a watch, and I began to note the safety and sanctity of my ability to have Mass in 2019. I couldn't get over how upset I got in an empty church over three people I couldn't even see. Ugh—the totality of all of that would make anyone feel pretty worthless. I mean, it wasn't a few weeks ago I read an article about a priest kidnapped and burned by marauders in Africa, which made its way through Social Media.

It also wasn't just last week I was reading a passage by Greg Ogden, who wrote a number of books on discipleship. He spoke of how our challenges of discipleship, worship,

day. As our parishioners well know, THEY have been working on completely remaking Broadview Road over the last few months. It has been going on since early spring and one would be hard-pressed to see an end in sight.

So, I was about ten minutes into Mass and I couldn't hear myself. A worker had a jackhammer going on the Wexford side of the church, and there was some other loud machine coming through the parking lot side of the church. It was almost as bad as when my mom had the audacity to run the vacuum cleaner every Saturday morning to wake up her four slumbering sons. The cherry on her sundae would be "accidentally" bumping the doors of our bedroom with the guilty noise-maker, and the cherry on this particular Wednesday during Mass was that it was garbage day—the third disruptive noise seemingly hell bent to undo the holy things God ordained me to do some 12 plus years ago!



Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

and spiritual growth have taken on the shape of the rest of world, compared to the simple, original call of spreading the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

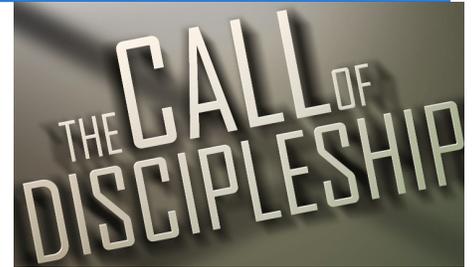
Simple in nature, those disciples spreading that message dealt with the worst. We developed a new category of "Christian Martyr" for men and women who died for their faith. They are so monumental in a historical and spiritual sense, and the means to that achieved heavenly crown was decidedly unselfish.

Church is about community, discipleship is about building that community. When something is self-

centered in the parish life, it eliminates the work of the Holy Spirit. It reeks. It is obvious. And, unfortunate of our human nature, it is inevitable...even for (especially for?) the pastor.

As the PNCC's Year of Discipleship winds down, may we be focused: Proverbs 4:25 simply says: "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you."

Statistics show that the autumn is the most well-attended church time of the year. May we share that desire of discipleship—that



building of the community of the church.

How? Well, that is up to you. My way may be different from yours, but it is all based on prayer, faith, and communication. Reach out to the people at church you don't know...or to the ones you wish (or that you should) know better. Just...don't get mad at them if they are a little too loud!

Fr. Jason

6th Annual St. Mary's PolishFest

The 6th Annual St. Mary's PolishFest took place on our parish grounds on a beautiful early September weekend, the 6-8.

This was our second year in a September timeslot, and our fifth in business with the Great Lakes Expositions Carnival Company.

This was also our second year without Thursday hours and with increased hours on the other days. This was done to give volunteers an extra day off while just asking an extra hour or two the other days..



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6th Annual St. Mary's PolishFest (Continued)

The parish was able to do a number of pre-sales in terms of food tickets and advertisements. This was the first year we were able to reach out to local businesses and benefactors to have advertisements on our tv's, tents, big board, and announced throughout the event.

In all, it was a very successful event. In fact, Saturday was our most profitable day in our 6-year history.

There was an end-of-event meeting on September 24 where we discussed various issues regarding the event, which has resulted in the call for a manual of operations to refer to for future events.

This manual will be unveiled in its rough draft at a parish-wide meeting on October 27 between Masses, where we will have the financial report of the PolishFest presented.



Baptism of Dean

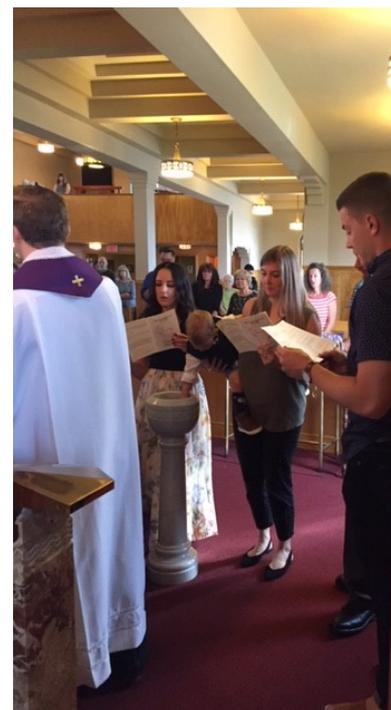
The Baptism of Dean took place during the 9am Mass on Sunday, September 22nd, the 25th Week of Ordinary Time.

Dean had started coming around a little bit toward the end of the summer, often with his mom, brother, and grandmother in tow.

As he is closer to two than one, he was able to participate a little more in the baptism than a newborn. He reached out to taste the salt

on his own and, in a first, began "warming up" for the Baptism by reaching into the Holy Water stoup located near the Baptismal Font and making sure his hair was already a bit moistened before being anointed and baptized!

God bless Dean, as the prayers of our parish were with him this joyful day.



Chili Cook-Off

Branch #29 of the YMSofR held their annual Chili Cook-Off after the 11am Mass on Sunday, September 29.

Due to the Browns schedule, we had to have it a bit earlier in the autumn this year. They were due to face the Ravens in Baltimore at 1pm...and lo and behold—this was the first time the Browns won on cook-off day!

There were 9 chilis entered into this year's event, with 3 traditional and 6 non-traditional style. Prizes were given for each category.

Our 2019 definition for a traditional chili would mean red sauce, beef, beans, spice, etc. A non-traditional chili

might mean chicken, a white sauce, sausage, vegetarian, something else that makes it "different."

We thank everyone who came to judge, taste, and enjoy a nice lunch at church. We also had served some kielbasa sandwiches, hot dogs, baked goods, chips, and drinks. Delicious!



Various Announcements

ADULT EDUCATION

Our first "Brush up on the PNCC" class took place this past Wednesday, with the subject of Denomination and Parish History. For some, it was what was recently read in history books, for others, a reminder of memories long-gone. Future subjects will include: our governance/structure (Oct 16), our view on the Sacraments (Nov 6), and our place in Christianity (Nov 20). We meet at 6pm for 60ish minutes

CHILI COOKOFF

Thank you to all who participated in YMSofR Branch #29's Chili Cook-off last Sunday. There were 9 very unique chili recipes entered, with winners awarded to "traditional" and "non-traditional" chili. Also....the Browns won on cook-off day- wow!

CRAFT FAIR

The autumn craft fair is cancelled for this year, most likely to be made up in

the springtime. This means that the YMSofR soup sale that we know and love is also going to be bumped. It will now be in conjunction with a potato pancake and soup dinner that will be held on Friday, Dec. 6 from 4-7pm.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

There will be an SOCL/PTO sponsored Halloween Party on Sunday, Oct 27 at 11am (after 9am Mass and Sunday School). We ask the children to dress up for the party...and yes, they can wear their costumes in church too (even the church babies...).

CATECHISM

Please see Fr. Jason if you or your child is interested in Catechism Classes in preparation for First Communion or Confirmation.

OPERATION:CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our collection has begun, and runs to November 18. A reminder- boxes filled with gifts, school supplies, etc. &

assembled by age/gender and delivered to a child in need somewhere in the world. \$9 must be included with each box, or a \$9 donation can be made sans box. Boxes are available in the Fellowship Hall.

ALL SOULS

All Souls Day takes place on Saturday, November 2nd with a service at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th St. Envelopes will be available around the church for you to fill out and remember your loved ones. They then can be dropped in the collection basket or given directly to Fr. Jason. All submitted names will be remembered in prayer during November Sunday Masses.

ORDINATION TO DIACONATE

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky has announced that Sub-Deacon James Ploskonka will be Ordained to the Major Order of Deacon on Sunday morning November 10, 2019. Prime Bishop will visit St. Mary's to impart the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Sub-Deacon Jim. There will be only a 9am Mass that morning, with a brunch to follow

A note from your parish chair.....

Just a Few Fun Random Facts...

About October:

- *Adopt a Dog/Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- *American Pharmacists Month
- *Clergy Appreciation Month
- *Eat Country Ham Month
- *National Caramel Month (10/21 Nat'l Caramel Apple Day)
- *Pizza Month

Americans eat approximately 100 acres of pizza EACH DAY, or about 350 slices per second.

- *Polish American Heritage Month –

“...Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1987 as Polish American Heritage Month. I urge all Americans to join their fellow citizens of Polish descent in observance of this month...”

- *Popcorn Poppin' Month

Most popcorn comes in two basic shapes when it's popped: snowflake and mushroom. Snowflake is used in movie theaters and ballparks because it looks and pops bigger. Mushroom is used for candy confections because it doesn't crumble. Popcorn kernels can pop up to 3 feet in the air.

- *Sarcastic Month

About Cleveland:

- *The Cleveland Arcade, opened in 1890, is widely considered the first indoor shopping complex in America.
- *Let there be light! Cleveland was the first city to be lit electrically in 1879. It's also the first to use an electric traffic signal, installed on Euclid Avenue and East 105th Street
- *Playhouse Square is the largest performing arts center outside of the Big Apple.
- *The Terminal Tower, standing 708-feet tall, was the second-tallest building in the world upon completion in 1930.
- *Potato chips were first mass-produced right here in Cleveland... and we've been eating more than just one ever since.
- *We helped Chef Boyardee get his start. Before Beefaroni went global, Italian chef Hector Boiardi moved to Cleveland and opened a restaurant here called Giardino d'Italia. People began asking for the recipe.
- *The city's coldest day in history got down to -20 de-

grees with a high of -2 on January 19, 1994.

*The game of golf as we know it today owes a lot to Cleveland. In 1898, a Clevelander and avid golfer named Coburn Haskell inadvertently came up with the wound rubber design of modern golf balls. Prior to that they were leather pouches full of boiled feathers.

*Life Savers were invented here. Businessman Clarence A. Crane wanted to solve the ever-troubling problem of candy melting. He used a machine that pharmacists use to make round flat pills, punched a hole in the center of the candy concoction and called it a Life Saver.

*What's up with the whales? We all drive passed the Cleveland Public Power Plant covered in the sea creatures, but you may not know there's a message of marine conservation behind it. Artist Robert Wyland is responsible for the work and 100 other life-sized public marine murals deemed as the “Wyland Walls” campaign, according to the Wyland Foundation. The campaign exists in seven countries and 79 cities, internationally.

*The Land has a noteworthy community, being the first city to receive the All-American City Award five times – the first in 1949, and the last in 1994.

Weird Laws in Ohio!!:

*Cleveland: It's illegal to catch mice without a hunting license

*Bay Village: It's illegal to walk a cow down Lake Road

*Columbus: It's illegal for stores to sell Corn Flakes on Sunday

*North Canton: It's illegal to roller skate without notifying the police

*Paulding: A policeman may bite a dog to quiet him.

*Ohio: It's illegal to kill a housefly within 160 feet of a church without a license

Happy Halloween

*Samhainophobia - The fear of Halloween

*86% of Americans decorate their homes in celebration of Halloween

*Halloween is the second highest grossing commercial holiday after Christmas.

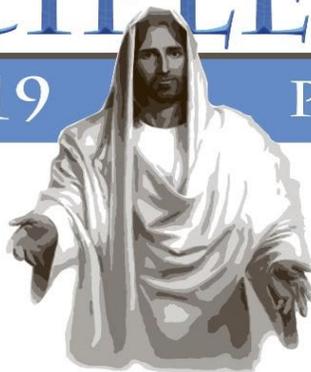
elaine p. plaskonka

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2019

PNCC



October 1, 2019

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

It is not going to be easy, but it is going to be worth it! Jesus said to them all: *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."* Luke 9:23

So as we begin October we are in our tenth month of a renewed focus and dedication to become better and more faithful disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and I ask you a question Bishop Mack posed in a recent article: "What have you accomplished?"



Are you picking up the cross daily and following Jesus? Are you denying yourself? Our Lord didn't say sit back and relax and say all is going to be easy because you are my disciples. But rather we are to go out and live and spread the Gospel of Salvation. And we do this even more so with our actions and our choices more so than our words. Being a disciple of our Lord is taking the road less traveled, the narrow way, the way that puts God and others before self, the way that chooses to do for others before worrying about oneself. Jesus needs to be the standard – the example we follow in our life! *After Jesus had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. John 13:12-15*

Being a disciple of our Lord can cost you much – friends, even family, comfort and worldly pleasures, but if we live our lives in loving service as our Lord's disciples then we will find true purpose, meaning and happiness in our life. Even as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family this month, we are reminded by Jesus who our brothers and sisters are. *'While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." But to the one who had told*

Works of Mercy

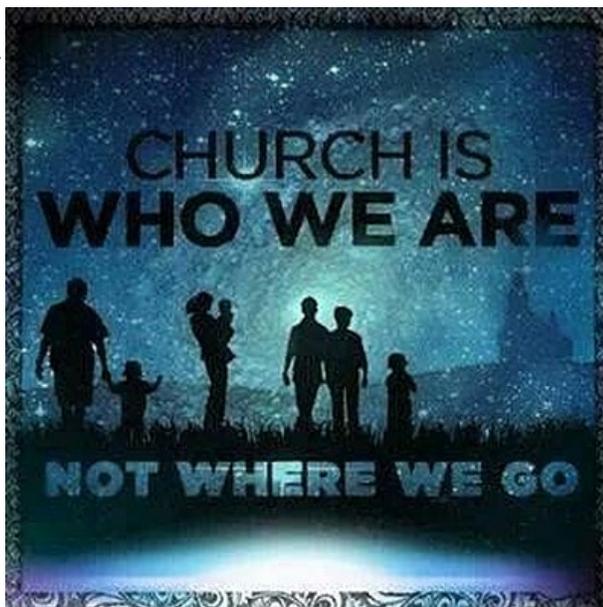
CORPORAL	SPIRITUAL
1. Feed the hungry	1. Counsel the doubtful
2. Give drink to the thirsty	2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Clothe the naked	3. Admonish the sinner
4. Shelter the homeless	4. Comfort the afflicted
5. Visit the sick	5. Forgive offenses
6. Visit the imprisoned	6. Bear wrongs patiently
7. Bury the dead	7. Pray for the living & the dead

PNCC Future Directions Update

him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Matthew 12:46-50

Our society and world tell us in so many ways to take care of yourself first and don't worry about taking responsibility for things – a message diametrically opposed to the Gospel and teaching of Jesus. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6). So, what sacrifices have we made to grow closer to Jesus? To become a more genuine Disciple? As disciples we are all to preach the Gospel and only use words when necessary. Are we doing this?

Also, during the month of October, the Church honors our Blessed Mother and celebrates the Solemnity of our Holy Mother of the Rosary. [Click here for a reflection: To Imitate and Obtain - The Rosary within Family Discipleship.](#) Thanks to Rev. Scott Lill for this meaningful reflection. Let us make sure that as our Lord's disciples we pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).



Please keep these church-wide undertakings 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.

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 to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

During this month where our Holy Church celebrates the Solemnity of Brotherly Love - let us make sure that we are showing our love for God and our neighbor (especially the one in need) in concrete ways by the choices we make each and every day. Be ambassadors of love and mercy in Jesus's name!

Bengston/Paulus Wedding

Joshua and Demi (Paulus) Bengston were married here at St. Mary's on the afternoon of Sunday, September 1st.

A service took place at the parish in the afternoon with a reception to follow. The couple had met with Fr.



Jason on numerous occasions in preparation for their nuptials.

God bless the Bengston's as they enjoy honeymooning in Japan!



October Days of Note



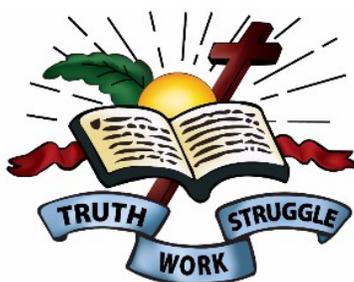
October

- 5 - Eileen Cashmere
- 7 - Elaine Repede
- 9 - Nancy Roharik
- 10 - Greg Hodor
- 17 - Michael D'Arcy
- 18 - Ron Roharik
- 23 - James Boehnlein
- 25 - Bruce Bogzevitz
- 25 - Jim Nemeč
- 30 - Krysta Kurzynski
- 31 - Marlane Oleniacz
- 31 - Patty Temesi



October

- 3 - Jack & Lolly Spilka
- 4 - Jeff & Amy Dreger
- 5 - Pete & Debbie Moritz



"Advice on Bible Reading"

... It is not a bowl of Halloween candy with a sign attached, "Please take one".

... It is not a test that you at some point put down, saying, "At last I'm finally done!"

...It is not an assignment for the gifted that requires you to pass with perfect scores.

... It is not the bread one eats to feel satisfied, but a part of your very core.

...It is not an accessory to ones beliefs, but a carpenter's tool, refined and always there.

... It is not a Get Out of Jail Free Card to be pulled out whenever out of thin air.

It's a complete lifestyle overhaul should you choose to take that leap of faith.

You can't just dip your toes. You take a step, you go a mile, is that not the way it goes?

So please, take note of these Bible misconceptions. A believer or not I just had to mention!

—Timothy Hicks—



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
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	John Radon

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	Tom Slomka
Geris S.	Ben Soltesy
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Rose Petrosky
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Mary Cawley
Richard & Edna Samelson	Jim Giles
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Muffie B.	Aziel G.
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.
Michael McGivern	Sylvia Kowalski
Daniel Morgan	Emma Freshwater
Kim Penney	

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org