

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

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

**March 2015**

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## **Memorable...For the Wrong Reason!**

So...winter in Cleveland, eh?

It has been about 16 months since the moving vans arrived at St. Mary's, and we are (hopefully) completing our 2nd horrible winter in those few months.

February was historic here (and I know many other nearby areas). It was the coldest month...ever...on record. Miserable. And on the days it wasn't 3 degrees, it snowed, and then the temperature would drop to single digits or lower when you finally grabbed that shovel and were ready to give it a go.

2 for 2 when it comes to winters here. It was last January that was memorably cold and bitter. Recently, we had a day in the low 30's and people were coming in to the church for a bake sale in sweatshirts and shorts...no lie!

Having done the whole winter thing



and having tired of it, we've entered that Season of Lent that begins with the bitter cold of mid-winter and ends gloriously on a beautiful Easter morning.

Something about Lent seems a bit...off...this year. I know there were always inklings of it, but never before did I see so much marketing designed around the Lenten Season this year.

Since Ash Wednesday, I have seen advertisements from gyms, pizza places, and restaurants designed on gaining the business of those taking on a spiritual fast to further their financial gain.

And you know what? *We fall for it!* Oftentimes, the desires we have at the beginning of the Lenten season are not so much denial (denying yourself of a type of food, that extra change in your pocket, time for entertainment options, etc.) as they are enrichment.

By desiring to exercise more, eat healthier (ie, less fatty meats/whatever), and to live a more structured life, we are doing our darnedest to improve that physical

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exterior for all to see.

When put that way, it kinda sorta sounds a bit selfish, doesn't it? Who are we seeking to gratify in this— God, or our own self-image and worth?

As loaded as I just wrote it out to be, it really isn't an "either/or" situation. First Corinthians 6:19 says "Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

St. Paul teaches us in this sixth Chapter of his 1st Letter to the Corinthians that we are to glorify God in body *and* spirit. If a resolution is made within those parameters of Lent, if they are joined with increased prayer, fasting and almsgiving, that exercise and body-shaping can really take on the visage of something greater, something spiritual.

Achieving improvement in the face of temptations like fast food commercials and 50% pizza sales? Great! It may seem trivial in the face of Christ's temptations...but an accomplishment is an accomplishment.

*Fr. Jason*

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### Our Lenten Devotions

Lent is a time for increased prayer—one of the three disciplines of the season. As we are called to fast, to pray more, and to give more, St. Mary's has always made sure to provide parishioners with that opportunity.

On Ash Wednesday, a service of the Litany of the Passion was held at Noon with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes. The Holy Mass of Ash Wednesday was held at 7pm, again with the Blessing and Distribution of Ash-

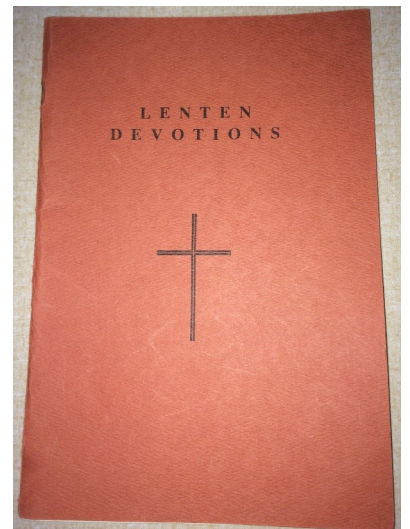
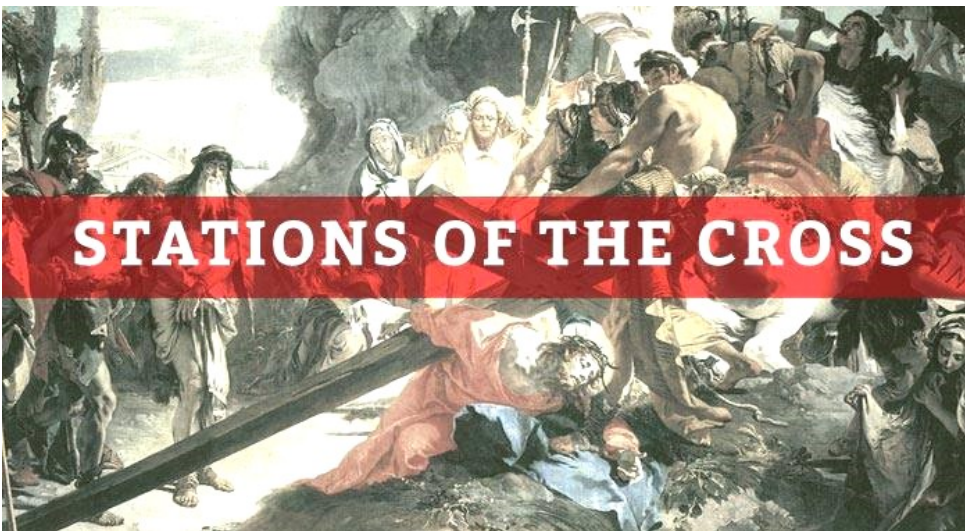
es.

Every Friday evening at 7pm Lenten Devotions are held. For the six Fridays of Lent, we are able to celebrate all three parts of the Bitter Lamentations as well as three sets of the Stations of the Cross.

### Concerning Lent

*"But if we understand live in the spirit of Christian teaching, as the perfection of self by the overcoming of base motivations, then in this case the time of Lent and those lessons which Lent brings with itself—prayer, the reading of pious works, work dictated by charity—all these characteristics of Lent provide a person with spiritual satisfaction. This is the reason we call this time of approaching spring a time of rebirth, salvation. But above all this is a time to straighten out one's affairs with God, the Creator, the Judge, and Destiny."*

**Prime Bishop Francis Hodur**





### Ministry to those in need

#### **Food Ministry**

Our Food Ministry continues to be served on the first Wednesday of the month from 4-6pm.

New volunteers are always welcome, be they cooks, servers, cleaners, washers, or friendly faces. It makes for a great, relaxed, and rewarding way to fulfill service hours.

Since the inception of the Food Ministry at St. Mary's, 3343 meals have been served

#### **Prayer Shawl**

At a recent Bible Study, a prayer shawl was blessed by Father Jason while his prayers and the prayers of the entire group were

poured into that shawl.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a beautiful and caring ministry within the church. It is simple—shawls are made by loving hands with the intention and focus to offer comfort for someone in need.

The prayer of blessing should be communal—it ought to be blessed by a ordained minister while those who prepared it—or



any and everyone else— would offer their prayers and confer them the same way Christ often did: by the laying on of hands.

### Remember When...

The Lector Ministry at St. Mary's features ten lectors of varying ages and backgrounds.

They have been called by God to read His Word on Sunday and Holy Days, which they do with aplomb. Bob Samelson heads the group and schedules the readers on a quarterly basis as well as calls the occasional meeting. New last year (2014) was the reading of the Prayers of the Faithful/ Intercessions to the weekly duties of the lectors.

Pictured below is a photo from December 7th of 2003, when Lectors were installed for the

first time at St. Mary's—see any faces you recognize?



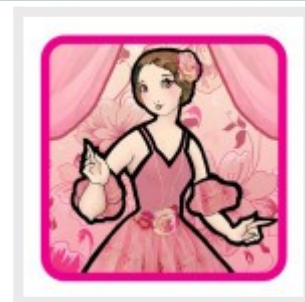
### See the Talent on Display!!!

Beck Center Dance Education presents *Die Puppenfee*, better known as *The Fairy Doll* March 21-22 and 27-29 | Music & Dance Building, 17801 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107. Tickets are \$10 (children/students) and \$12 (adult/seniors) and on sale now by visiting the box office or calling 216-521-2540.

*The Fairy Doll* was first staged in Russia in 1897. The ballet begins in what may seem like any other Toy Shoppe in town, but as the doors close and the night

falls...a bit of magic envelopes the store! With the townspeople fast asleep in bed, the toys awaken for a night of enchantment. Led by the Fairy Doll, the toys dance beneath the stars and the light of the moon.

This one act ballet in two scenes was originally created by Nikolai and Sergei Legat and features the music of Josef Bayer as well as music by Tchaikovsky, Gottschalk, and Liadov and Drigo. Additional choreography for this production is by Melanie Szucs, Associate Director of



Dance Education.

The production will feature 80 students from Beck's dance department. Also included on the program will be excerpts from act 2 of *Giselle* performed by Beck Center Dance Workshop members.

St. Mary's own Halina and Eliza Dreger will perform. For more information, visit [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org).

### Recipe Watch: Lenten Vegetarian Mole Chili

This newsletter was once renowned for its ventures into the culinary sphere. Here is a recipe for a pot of meatless chili that you can serve any day of the week during the Lenten Season. It also can (and has been) used by a certain priest to appease his meatless-for-Lent wife.

#### The Recipe:

1 large diced onion, 1 medium zucchini, sliced and quartered, 6 stalks celery, diced, 1 diced green pepper, one diced yellow pepper, 4 cloves of garlic, smashed.

Cook down in a large pot with 1 tablespoon olive oil for about 5 minutes. Add 1 tablespoon of cumin, 1 tablespoon of unsweetened cocoa (makes it "mole, pronounced moe-lay), and 2 tablespoons of chili powder and cook until veggies are softened.

Add 3 cans of tomatoes—diced are preferred as well as 3 or four cans of drained and rinsed beans (depending how beany you like it). Vary your beans—pinto, red/white kidney, black, etc.

Then add 1 1/2 cups sugar, another tablespoon of cocoa and chili powder, and cumin, salt, pepper, honey, garlic powder, etc. to taste. Bring to a boil, and bring to low for an hour or so.

Vegetarian chili doesn't take an entire day! Top with diced onions and cheese and voila!





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### Various Announcements

#### 100th Anniversary Planning

A meeting was held on Tuesday, February 24th to begin planning for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of our Parish. Plans are beginning to take form for our October 10<sup>th</sup> celebration. Please make sure to mark the date on your calendar now. Be expected to be tapped on the shoulder between now and then for various reasons (history, grunt work, any talent you may have) as we begin our preparations.

#### Applebee's Dining to Donate

St. Mary's has been approved to have the Applebee's location in Independence, OH to host a "Dining to Donate" day on Thursday, April 16, from 11am-9pm.

This means that if you bring in the flyers that will be passed out at church or emailed to the parishioners, 15% of your purchase will go right back to St. Mary's. It is an easy fundraiser—go out to dinner with friends and family and that portion of your bill will go directly back to St. Mary's. Please give

flyers to any and everyone you know...or people you don't know! For more info, please contact Natalie Soltysiak at the rectory or email her [nesoltysiak@gmail.com](mailto:nesoltysiak@gmail.com).

#### Seniorate Lenten Retreat

The Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese will be holding a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 21 at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI. Transportation can be provided. It lasts from late morning until mid-afternoon, and you can be home for dinner. The clergy of the Northeast Seniorate will be providing lectures and reflections during the few hours of the this spiritual retreat. Please speak to Fr. Jason if you are interested in attending and if you need transportation.

#### Spojnia News

All PNU members from Br. 63 in Cleveland, Br. 112 in Parma, Br. 115 in Warren, Br. 119 in New Castle, Br. 305 in Cleveland, and Br. 331 in Cleveland will participate in the delegate pool for election of delegates in the Special District Election for the combined Districts 12 & 5. This election takes place

on Mar. 21 at Holy Family Parish in McKeesport, PA at 10am. The PNU Convention is November 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> aboard the Cruise Ship Independence of the Sea from the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Contact Michael Wisniewski for more info regarding PNU policies and membership or for info regarding the cruise which is open to any PNCC or PNU member

#### Fish Fry

We will be having a fish fry dinner on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm. The dinner includes fish, haluski (cabbage & noodles), coleslaw or apple sauce, roll, drink and dessert. We are looking for volunteers to help with baking, set up, dinner and clean up. A sign-up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall or speak with a member of the fundraising committee for more information (Susan Boehnlein, Krysta Kurzynski and Natalie Soltysiak).

#### Honeybaked Ham

As has been done the past several years, we are offering several items from Honeybaked Ham for your Easter dinners. 15% of sales remains with us. Order by Palm Sunday. Please see Elaine Ploskonka for more details or to place an order.

### Anniversary of our Organizer

February 16 marks the passing of the Organizer of the PNCC, Prime Bishop Francis Hodur.

On this day, which was a Monday, we held Holy Mass in his memory and celebrated in the rarely-used "Bishop Hodur Rite" of the Mass that is found in the Massbooks.

Prime Bishop Hodur heeded the call of his people to begin the PNCC in March of 1897 and led the church until his death in 1953.

He visited the Cleveland area a number of times in his ministry, but we have yet to find a picture of him at the old St. Mary's...Do you have one?



## February Days of Note



- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Amanda Sayage
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Bill Kastak
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Nate Ploskonka
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Ed Basiewicz
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Roman Misiewicz
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Linda Sobolewski
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Barb Bogzevitz
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Lauren O'Conner
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Karen Dicken
- 25<sup>th</sup> – David Adams
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Evonne Pryer
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Don Burger
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Michael Ference



## Quick Announcements

Help is always needed for our monthly Food Ministry. On the first Wednesday of every month, a group of parishioners take the time out of their schedules to prepare a fresh, hot meal that is served from 4pm-6pm.

Our needs vary from month-to-month. Sometimes, we need help cooking the meal. Other times, it is the setting of the tables and preparation of the hall. Other times, serving and cleanup.

If you are at all interested in offering your time and ministry to this endeavor, please feel free to speak to Fr. Jason or to Dr. Jim Ploskonka. Thank you in advance!

## Our Prayer List

### Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Marlane Oleniacz	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig & Judy Atherton	John Spilka
Louise Cygan	Edward Basiewicz
Mary Ann Loschelder	June Zaun
Alison Jambor	Jim Boehnlein
Laura Samelson	

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Colby Howard
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Oliver Kuta	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol & Chuck Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Joanel Rollen	Veronica Babic
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Don and Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Jack Amburgey, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	George Beggin
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
Duda Family	Fr. Sr. John Kraus
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Gina Crosetti	Madilyn Perry
Elsa Vogl de Gomez	Joyce Dicken
Kim Blaha	John Clark Sr.
Tom Bowen	

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

Shirley Paulus	Tony Mudrak
Gene Mora	Ted Jurczyk
	Polly Gajda

### WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY NEEDING  
HEALING  
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND  
THE WORLD

Lord, bring all service personnel safely  
home!!!

Bless them, O Lord.

## A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure  
In the flowers today;  
And give us not to think  
so far away  
As the uncertain harvest;  
keep us here  
All simply in  
the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure  
In the orchard white,  
Like nothing else by day,  
like ghosts by night;  
And make us happy  
In the happy bees,  
The swarm dilating  
round the perfect trees.

And make us happy  
in the darting bird  
That suddenly above  
the bees is heard,  
The meteor that thrusts  
in with needle bill,  
And off a blossom  
in mid air stands still.

For this is love  
and nothing else is love,  
To which it is reversed  
for God above  
To sanctify to  
what far ends he will,  
But which it only needs  
that we fulfill.

*Robert Frost*

