

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

September 2015

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The Stretch Run

This is an article about renovations. Now, before you say "forget this!" and turn to look at the next page, may I remind you that there are multiple (!) channels on cable that focus entirely on interior and exterior home renovations.

Renovations are a drag though. You know in the end it'll be worth it, but things are always behind schedule, messy, its new people in your home/work/familiar place...it is stressful!

When I was a kid, our family moved a bit north from Connecticut to South-Western Massachusetts in the summer of 1994. In that move, my father was assigned as Pastor at a PNC Church in Westfield, MA and inherited an almost immediate full-scale renovation.

The renovation loosely coincided with the parish's 75th Anniversary. The renovations included completely stripping off all the ceiling paint,



repainting the entire church, new Stations of the Cross, new Tabernacle, new carpeting, etc. Not every renovation was completed in time for the autumn of 1995, but work was on its way. I remember how neat it was that anniversary weekend, as the parish hosted the Eastern Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Thomas Gnat for one morning Mass, their former pastor and Diocesan Bishop of the Western Diocese, Rt. Rev. Robert Nemkovich for the other Sunday morning Mass, and the Prime Bishop, Most Rev. John Swantek for the Anniversary Mass.

Fast-forward 20 years later and it seems like history is repeating itself here at St. Mary's. We are also in the midst of a large-scale renovation. We also had to do some major ceiling and wall repair, and we also are getting the entire church repainted. We also received some new Stations of the Cross, and we are also in the midst of installing a new tabernacle. On October 10th, we will welcome our Diocesan Bishop and our Prime Bishop to St. Mary's for our Anniversary weekend.

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The last few weeks haven't been without stress. There have been workers in the church since mid-August, and we have had Sunday Mass in the Fellowship Hall since August 23. Adding a bit to the stress was that August 22-23 weekend was when we hosted a National PNCC event in the 1st Annual YMSofR Golf Tournament. Our Fellowship Hall's first Sunday morning Mass was even celebrated by our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, as he was in for the golf event. Nothing like a visit from "the boss" to make sure renovations are on-point and that the new worship space is up-to-par.

With all of that said...it is that final stretch, the proverbial light at end of the tunnel. All of the "macro" planning is done for our upcoming 100th. Though not all renovations and improvements will be completed, a solid plan is in place for them to be done within our 100th Year.

As the weeks until the big day are short, please keep all of St. Mary's parishioners in prayer, as well as our activities, our fundraisers, our mission work, our ministry, and our future. Here's to the next few weeks going as smoothly as possible! Fr. Jason

6th Annual St. Mary's Dinner & A Car Show

The Sixth Annual St. Mary's Dinner & A Car Show opened up our month of August, taking place on Saturday, August 1st on our parish grounds.

The event, running as smoothly as possible, took place on a picture-perfect summer afternoon and evening. Dozens upon dozens of cars filled both of our lots, on display for the hundreds that

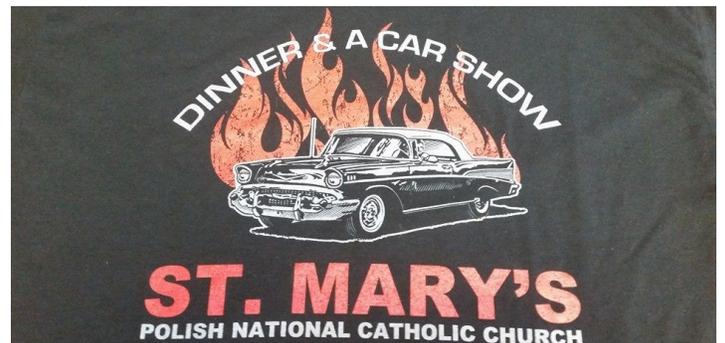
came to the event.

The kitchen was open during the event, serving all sorts of Polish and American foods. The lines stretched long, but moved at a pretty speedy rate.

Holy Mass was celebrated at 5pm for parishioners and attendees of the Car Show. Many thanks to those who bent their

normal Sunday Worship schedules to be with those gathered.

Steve Fesz, the coordinator of the event, had this to say: "It was a busy, but relaxing evening. I had time to grab a quick bite, but there was always something to do. My family helping out is what makes the day really enjoyable for me."



St. Mary's 6th Annual Dinner & A Car Show (Cont.)

Prizes were given out to the owners of the automobiles. There were multiple prizes for cars that received a certain number of votes, as well as the heralded and well-known "Kielbasa Kup". This trophy has been presented to the best-in-show, complete with...you guessed it...a cup filled with kielbasa.

Many thanks to all parishioners and friends who donated time, talent, and treasure in support of this event. It was a nice rebound from 2014, when the threat of rain hung over the event after a wash-out.

The plan is to continue next year with the 7th Annual Dinner & A Car Show. Keep your eyes on

this newsletter and in various car show publications to be the first to know when in 2017 St. Mary's will play host to the next show.



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1st Annual National YMSoFR Golf Tournament

St. Mary's has three of its members who sit on the National YMSoFR Board: Father Jason, David Micka, & Dr. Jim Ploskonka.

Together, they agreed to host the 1st Annual National YMSoFR Golf Tournament in the Cleveland area. The tournament was formed to replace costs lost to the Annual Track Meet (Zlot) going defunct a few years back. The tournament took place at Skyland Golf Course in Hinckley, OH. Parishioner Bruce Bogzevitz was our point-person and did much of the groundwork (ok, nearly all of it!) needed at the golf course for the event. It was

held on August 22nd on a truly perfect summer Saturday.

After the round of golf, golfers and attendees/parishioners were invited back to the church for a cocktail hour and an Italian Dinner prepared by the mother of the National YMSoFR's president, Mrs. Rose Kazinetz. All were treated to more Italian food than they ever thought they could eat.

The weekend's festivities closed with Holy Mass on Sunday morning, August 23rd. As St. Mary's is in the midst of renovations, Mass was held in the Fellowship Hall by the Bishop Ordinary of

the Western Diocese (and episcopal golfer!) the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski. Fr. Jason served as Homilist for the morning.

After Mass, all were invited downstairs for donuts, coffee, and other sweets & drinks. Attendees then hit the road with happy hearts, full bellies, and satisfied souls.

No plans are currently in place regarding the future of the golf tournament. Whether St. Mary's hosts the event once again or it travels to another diocese and/or parish, we will support it and pray for its success.



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Golf Tournament & Banquet (continued)



Various Announcements

PolishFest Wrap-Up Meeting

There will be a final wrap-up meeting this Tuesday, September 22nd regarding the July PolishFest. Please attend to hear the final numbers, offer your opinion, and think about if/how/when the event should take place next year.

100th Anniversary Planning

The Centennial Mass will be celebrated on October 10th at 3pm with the banquet to follow at Pokrova Hall. Sunday morning the 11th,

there will be only one Mass at 10am with a breakfast to follow. More info will arrive shortly regarding our celebrations

Craft Fair/Rummage Sale

On Sunday, October 24th, St. Mary's will be the home of a Craft Fair in the Fellowship Hall and a Rummage Sale in the basement hall. Crafters are invited to rent tables at \$30 per table. The deadline to rent a table is October 17. Call MaryAnn at 216-409-4254 for

more details. In between will be a bake sale and the traditional October pumpkin sale. Please mark this date on your calendars now.

School Of Christian Living

School of Christian Living (SOCL) begins Sunday, September 20 after the 9am Holy Mass. We ask all parents and grandparents of school-aged children to make sure that they are enrolled in our parish's Sunday School.

Parish Renovations

Renovations to St. Mary's began August 17. After our roof got replaced earlier this summer, it was finally time to put a fresh coat of paint on the walls that were damaged by rainwater through the years.

Significant damage took place in the sacristy area, leading to holes in the ceiling (see picture). As many parishioners and guests have noticed, the walls and pillars within the church proper have been damaged for a number of years now.

After nearly two weeks of patching holes and repairing walls, priming and two coats of paint

were deemed necessary for the project.

Meanwhile, Masses were celebrated in the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall. Bishop Bilinski, in for the Golf Tournament, was

honored to celebrate our first Mass in the Fellowship Hall.



Flower & Herb Blessing

As per Catholic Tradition, Flowers and Herbs were blessed on the Feast of the Dormition and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To honor our patroness, parishioners were asked to bring in items from their garden in order to be blessed in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The meaning is two-fold for the day. The first is that we offer to God always our first-fruits for the greatest blessings in our lives. By getting our home-grown items blessed, we bring the blessing of Almighty God back to our homes with us.

The second meaning goes with the tradition of the day. Tradition states that after Mary died/fell

asleep (dormition), her body was assumed into heaven.

Though her body was laid to rest, after it assumed, something miraculous happened— there were now bountiful and beautiful flowers in that place.

The church honors this miracle every year by offering a blessing to those flowers and herbs brought for the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Baptism

St. Mary's was honored to hold the Holy Baptism of Sidney Zak on August 16 during the 9am Holy Mass.

Sidney has been a mainstay at our parish, "singing" along with her parents up in the choir loft during Mass.

Her baptism took place during Mass, beginning from the vestibule and, after being received, processed to the Baptismal Font. There, she, via her parents and godparents, vowed to stay away from all things evil and proclaimed her desire to be baptized.

We pray for her entire family as well as for her Christian journey. She was an angel throughout the ceremony with some very important help from her big brother, who did not take his protective eyes off of his sister for even a slight moment.



September Days of Note



- 1st — Judy Lynne Mondok
- 1st — Brett Spilka
- 5th — Jim Ploskonka
- 7th — Elaine Ploskonka
- 7th — Sharon Skiba
- 9th — Marcus Todorovich
- 13th — David Knapp
- 14th — Monika Gorchek
- 16th — Andrea Grmovsek
- 17th — Rose Kronen
- 21st — Bob Bernacki



- 19th — Pete & Marge O'Conner
- 26th — Steve & Barbara Fesz
- 26th — John & Adrienne Michalczyk
- 26th — Bp. Stanley & Debbie Bilinski
- 26th — Tome & Cherie Kugler



God's Field/Rola Boza is mainly available online now. Subscriptions are available by contacting the offices of the Polish National Catholic Church at 570-346-9131. Rola Boza can be accessed by visiting www.pncc.org, clicking on the "God's Field" tab at the top, and clicking on "current issue" or any of the past issues listed. You must have a pdf reader to download.

Straz/The Guard, the official publication of the Polish National Union, is available by visiting www.strazprinters.com. Members should receive a copy in the mail every other month.

Listen!

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?" The young boy was apologetic. 'Please, mister...please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do,' He pleaded. 'I threw the brick because no one else would stop...'. With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car.. 'It's my brother, 'he said 'He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up.' Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, 'Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me.'

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat... He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. 'Thank you and may God bless you,' the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: 'Don't go thru life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!' God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

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 | Alison Jambor |
| Mary Ann Loschelder | June Zaun |
| Marty Bengala | Amy Dreger |

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 |
| Joemel 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 | Kristen McKenna |
| 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 |
| Chuck Zaranski | Madilyn Perry |
| Elsa Vogl de Gomez | Wanda Heffner |
| Kim Blaha | John Clark Sr. |
| Tom Bowen | Greg Soucie |
| Robert Winlock | Veronica Babic |
| Chris Minch | |
| Jason Dreger | Howard Dicken |

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Shirley Paulus | Tony Mudrak |
| Gene Mora | Polly Gajda |

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

