

St. Mary's

Polish National Catholic Church

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The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



July 16th, 2023

9am Mass: Ed & Loretta Pietrovich (Wedding Anv.) of. by daughter Chris Paulus and family

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

Lector – Bob Samelson

Greeters – Katie Repede & Gail Perz

Collectors – John Kasperczyk & Pete Moritz

-Coffee Hour follows 9am Holy Mass

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, July 17th

9am – Holy Mass for sp. Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko

TUESDAY, July 18th

7pm – Diocesan Word of God Study – see announcement

WEDNESDAY, July 19th

9am – Holy Mass of the Day – *Vincent DePaul, C.*

4pm – Weekly Food Ministry provided

THURSDAY, July 20th

6-8pm: Women's AA

FRIDAY, July 21st

9am – Holy Mass of the Day – *Praxedes, P.*

SATURDAY, July 22nd

8pm – AA Meets

SUNDAY, July 23rd – The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am Mass: Margaret Sobocinski (9th Anv.) of. by sp. Husband Clarence Sobocinski

Readings: Wisdom 12:13,16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matt 13:24-43

Lector – Carole D'Arcy

Greeters – Martha Repede & Barb Bogzevitz

Collectors – Greg Hodor & Pete O'Connor

-Coffee Hour follows 9am Holy Mass

Announcements

TODAY – and for all of July, we will use the 1st Eucharistic Prayer, based on the Traditional Canon, on p. 77.

WORD OF GOD STUDY – Fr. Jim will be offering an online study of God's Word on Tuesday, July 18 titled "Why Suffering?" Fr. Jim will use scripture to answer that agonizing, age-old question of why a loving God allows suffering for His creation. To participate, please email Fr. Jim at RevJPloskonka@gmail.com to receive a hyperlink for the Zoom. It will run each Tuesday evening at 8pm through August 8th.

FR. JASON – Thank you to all who chipped in this past week during Fr. Jason's absence. Unfortunately, due to the passing of our diocesan bishop, much of our upcoming scheduling is tentative at best, as Father will have to travel for Bishop's funeral in the coming days.

KITCHEN WORK – Last week, the parish committee approved work to be completed in the downstairs kitchen, where we do the vast majority of the cooking for our parish functions. Due to the age of some equipment and updates in the fire code, we are required to make some major improvements to the kitchen to bring it up to code and to be able to use. We are asking parishioners to be particularly generous to the improvement fund in order to support this mandated work.

CHOIR PARTY – The Choir White Elephant Party, originally scheduled for this Saturday the 22nd, is postponed until Saturday the 29th. There is due to road construction – more updates next week.

YOUTH GATHERING – Takes place Jul. 31-Aug 3 at Walnut Ridge Retreat Center in Morgantown, Indiana – just south of Indianapolis a little more than 5 hours away. We are hoping to fill up a vehicle to travel there- Fr. Jason will drive.

GOLF TOURNAMENT – The upcoming United YMSofR Golf Tournament takes place Saturday, August 26 and will be hosted by St. Mary's. We are looking for hole sponsors (personal, business, or parish organizations) as well as golfers – so, tell your friends! For non-golfers, we will be hosting a wonderful homemade banquet of Italian food that evening at the parish, which will include an open beer/wine bar, multiple main courses, appetizers, and more. The dinner will be the same price as in 2015 - \$25!!

Sp. RT. REV. JERRY RAFALKO – I write with such shock at the loss of Bishop Jerry Rafalko. Though I have only been a priest for 16 years, I have had 5 diocesan bishops – too many. And our Western Diocese has had a difficult string of luck that we will have a 6th Diocesan Bishop in this quarter century alone, with our Prime Bishop having, for a third time, to take on a role he would have never hoped to take on.

Bishop Jerry was such a humble man. I will never forget some of his first words as diocesan bishop were that he was not supposed to be in that spot; that his predecessor, +Bishop Stanley Bilinski, should have enjoyed many more years as the Bishop-Ordinary. He said it many times after that as well.

The first time I met him was an intimate setting- he was Father Jerry, and his wife Leslie and he were in Scranton for the Special Synod where he did not get elected. The evening before, he stopped by the Cathedral and I gave him and his wife the “long tour” and recommended a restaurant to get dinner. He reminded me often of that tour and the bite to eat afterward! One of the roles of Bishop is to pastor the diocesan priests. He made sure to develop a full relationship with all of us, whether we were from



somewhere nearby in Chicago or in the farthest reaches of the diocese: Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio. His ministry to us at St. Mary's began a few months before he was elected and after the death of Bishop Bilinski. With a full travel schedule, Prime Bishop asked Father Senior Jerry to come to St. Mary's one Sunday to confirm two young ladies from our parish, Marzena and Kyrsten. He did so, and stayed for hours afterward meeting with parishioners. As Bishop, he confirmed Makenzie and Damion when he was here for the National Golf Tournament in early September 2022. Just a few weeks earlier, he was in town for the Diocesan Choir Concert, having a blast with our parishioners and those from across the diocese. How proud he was to use the crozier that belonged to +Bp. Jan Dawidziuk as an homage to the history of this parish and this diocese that day. He remarked what a blessing it was to have the children of 8 PNCC priests in attendance the next day after church, giving them all a bit of time to talk about “their dads.”

But the memory that will endure in my heart forever about Bishop Jerry was from 2 years ago, almost to the day. Natalie and I lost our son, Jason Jr. just 3 days after we were confident enough to tell parishioners we were pregnant again. He checked in on us every day for a week, even coming to see us in Ohio and buying Brady a toy to play with. Every single time I saw or spoke to him since, he made sure to check in on how Natalie was doing. We are forever grateful for his personal ministry to us at such a difficult time.

My prayers have been with Bishop's wife Leslie since his death. I am so proud of the priests of the diocese who have been with her until her family could travel in to be with her. I was always proud that he was my bishop and bishop of our diocese. He told me he was looking forward to being in Ohio for the 2023 YMSofR Golf Tournament, if his health cooperated.

I miss him dearly already, and I know a number of people from our parish developed relationships with him from these visits, as well as national or diocesan events, or through his online presence. It was our parishioner, Mike Wisniewski, who asked Bishop on a call with our entire parish committee many months back why he stopped posting daily prayers on Facebook. When I spoke to him the next day, he said he couldn't believe people actually missed those! And from that day forward, he posted a daily prayer on Facebook, building quite the following of people who looked forward to being “recentered online”. Eternal rest grant unto him, o Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

UPCOMING

July 18– Zoom Word of God
July 26 – Bible Study
July 29 – Choir White Elephant
Jul 31-Aug 3-Youth Gathering
Aug 6-Transfiguration of our Lord
Aug 9-11-NUC Convention in .Dupont, PA
Aug 13 – Parish Comm. Meets
Aug 26 – Golf Tourney (here)
Sep 9 – Autumn Trunk Sale
Sep 16- PLAV Convention
Sep 24 – Spojnia Sunday
Sep/Oct – Night at the Races
Oct 4 – Animal Blessing
Oct 13-15 –YMSofR Convention- Norwich, CT