

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

May 2019

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Under Pressure....

One question I have often been asked doubles as something that could be a very forgettable Nike commercial “what motivates you?”

Motivation, like many things in life, ebbs and flows, wanes and crests. I find no real pattern to it, too— when I’m really busy and all my hours are spoken-for at church and home....sometimes, that to-do list stands no chance. And other times, the slightest distraction can make page-turns in the book I’m studying take a half-hour or the email left unanswered for a week.

The clock is a big motivator. Since having a baby, life now runs on his schedule. I remember not two years ago snickering at my brother-in-law for having dinner on the table every day at the laughable time of 5:30. How ridiculous! We ate at 7!

Now, you better believe dinner is done for 5:30. Nap time is sometime after noon. Snack at 7:30, bedtime at 8:15, and can never stay up later because you



never know when hours of sleep will be donated to the cause of “calm the baby down in the middle of the night.” And everything is moot if he runs a fever—time means nothing at that pint.

This is all completely and utterly familiar to any parent out there, and I apologize for any triggered stressful moments.

I thought about this idea of motivation in prayer over Eastertime....But not mine: Christ’s. In a joyous way, we can always say we know that Christ’s motivation was the Resurrection...but in a much-less joyous way, his motivation was the cross.

Since Jesus of Nazareth was a traveling man, he often had to go by those public places, often at the entrance of towns, where criminals (in someone’s eyes) were put to crucifixion. It was just the way: the leaders of the great city of Nineveh were known to put the heads of the deceased on poles outside the city walls as a warning—not much changed, even well-after Nineveh was destroyed.

That is pressure! Having to walk by those sites often in your travels, knowing that the path will eventually lead there. But His life only knew that sort of pressure.

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Some of the first words spoken about him in the New Testament laid down the burden. Luke 2:34 says “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed.” Simeon said these words, and you better believe they were repeated many times afterward.

When Jesus began his earthly ministry, it was with a bang. John 1:29 –30 says “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said –After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me-.’”

So far, Jesus hadn’t really “done” anything yet, and already, he was the one destined to determine the future of a country/race as well as rank ahead of the most popular preacher at that time....and to do something no other human ever did (or was permitted to): take away sin.

From this point, he would pick out 12 flawed, inexperienced men to be his “running mates” in building the theological, moral, and ethical template of what would become Christianity. Nothing like building up a compassion-based faith with dudes who work around the docks with other dudes, talking all day about the stuff dudes talk about!

Clearly, Jesus didn’t take the easy road. When it comes to moral dilemmas, there never is. When it comes to God’s way or earthly way, there is only

Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

one way. There is no argument or shortcut!

I like to think that this sort of pressure motivated Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. Some people are just cut out for that sort of thing. As an avid sports fan, there are those names that will always be associated with becoming even better as the pressure rose: Bill Russell, Derek Jeter, Magic Johnson, Joe Montana. Some of the game's greats...who somehow would even be better when "everything" was on the line.

Motivationpressure. God in Heaven has none— He creates and sus-

tains. *Bruce Almighty* might make it seem like answering prayers is hard, but I think the Big Guy got it.

God-on-earth...Jesus reveals His divine motivation in the 15th Chapter of St. John's Gospel. From verse 12-13: "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

We were always His motivation. From changing the face of religion, like Simeon said, to taking away the sin of the world, like John the Baptist said, to rising above pressure by allowing himself to be crucified— it always was for us.

That is the Easter Message over our weeks of celebration. His message was of compassion and love, and the motivation of His entire time on earth was us— to the point of giving up his own life to give us the chance at eternal life.

In that same way, we are motivated to provide for, to take care of, to love and minister to those in our own fold, be it our church family or our family at home. We can't take it to the degree that Christ could, but we are motivated to be faithful to nonetheless.

Fr. Jason

Various Announcements

EASTER

The Easter Season begins with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days, until the day of Pentecost, this year on June 4. The length of the celebration reminds us of the importance of this season and the importance of the Resurrection event in the story of our salvation. Please keep your Easter spirit strong over these next few weeks, as we remains standing throughout the Canon/Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, as we add extra "alleluias" throughout the liturgy, and as our lilies and Easter decorations stand out in our church proper.

MAY DEVOTIONS

May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary have begun and will be celebrated each of the five May Wednesdays. Please consider attending these devotions to the Blessed Mother, patroness of our Parish. It is an opportunity to see one of the unique liturgies of the church: Litany, Exposi-

tion, a short procession, all in about 30 minutes. As this is a weekly Eucharistic Adoration, we will not be holding Benediction/Exposition next Sunday, the 5th.

AVAILABLE

As was announced at last week's Potluck — there are 3 freezers available and one commercial double-door refrigerator. These units have been in our downstairs hall and are no longer needed now with our addition of the walk-in units. Please see 1st Vice Chair Steve Fesz if interested or if you have any questions/would like to reserve.

CONFIRMATION

The conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place Sunday, May 12. There will only be one Mass that morning at 9am. As it is Mother's Day, the breakfast/brunch afterward will honor all women of the parish as well as our two confirmands. Very Rev. Jerry Rafalko is serving as Prime Bishop's emissary for the Sacrament.

POLKA EVENT

On Sunday, May 19, we will be hosting a springtime Polka event, featuring "Those Guys". Doors open at 1pm, with music from 2-6pm. Admission is \$11, with a cash bar and light fare available to eat. For info, call Mary Ann 216-409-4254.

MEN'S RETREAT

The second Men's Retreat takes place May 16-18 at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA. The theme this year is "Defeating Evil in Your Life: Finding Truth." The cost is \$100 per person and covers food, room, & board. Transportation can be provided — please see Fr. Jason if interested in attending.

POLISH PARADE

The parade for Polish Constitution Day takes place Sunday, May 5th. St. Mary's will be marching in the parade. If you are interested in marching with the group of our parishioners and friends, please see JoAnn Long or leave a message at the Parish Office.

SOCL CLOSING EXERCISES

Will take place during the 9am Mass on Sunday, May 19th.

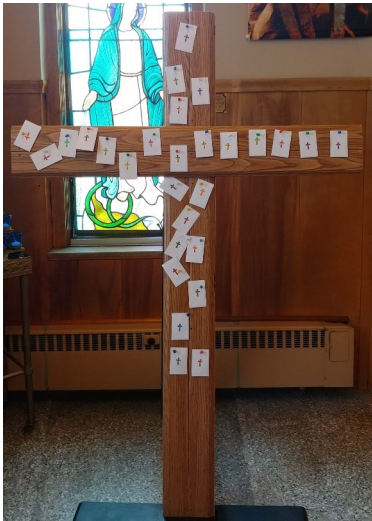
Prepping for Eastertime

Lent began late this year, which means Easter was close to the end of April! Preparation began with the beginning of Passiontide.

Passiontide begins the week before Palm Sunday, and this Passion Sunday, April 7, we continued parish tradition to hold an extended act of public penance before our Masses that day.

That Saturday, April 13, we had kielbasa making by the choir and friends as well as a pisanki workshop.

Easter kielbasa making is key to our Easter prep, as, for the choir, it is a much bigger sale than the Christmas one. Through the years, the parish has peppered in workshops for palm folding/structuring, egg coloring, etc.



Baker's Square Fundraiser

Well, we only had one picture from the Baker's Square Fundraiser...and it is pretty funny! It features the two people who are the loudest each Sunday morning as well as "Dependable Greg". This was the second restaurant fundraiser in line for 2019. It took place Tuesday, April 23rd from 7am til 10pm.

Our Parish Committee voted to have four throughout the year as an easy fundraiser. Though quite not as successful as our previous one at LongHorn Steakhouse, we still made about \$125 for the parish just for going out to eat!

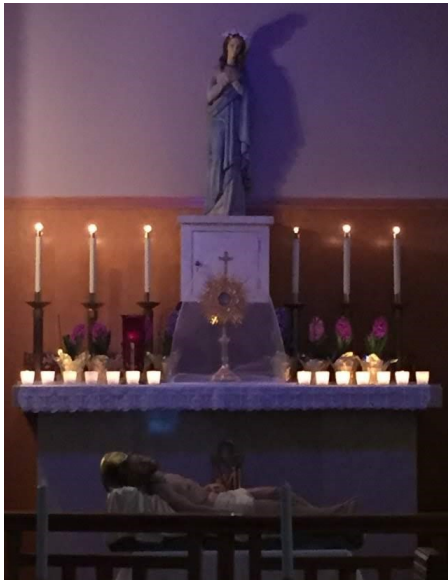
Holy Week at St. Mary's

Holy Week 2019 was, as it always is, all-encompassing and an incredible spiritual experience for those who walked with our Lord.

Last month's newsletter included a few things as a "Holy Week Preview", so this month, we will just show some pictures from what makes up Holy Week: The Liturgy of Palm Sunday, Diocesan Chrism Mass, the Mass of our Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the multiple liturgies of Good Friday, and the Liturgy of Holy Saturday.



Holy Week 2019 (Continued)



Easter 2019

A joyous Easter Celebration at St. Mary's began promptly at 7am with the beginning of the Easter Procession Liturgy. The Symbols of the Resurrection

were handed out, the grave was revealed to be emp-

ty, the blessings were given...and the glory of Easter rang with bells, with all the candles in church lighted, and the lights popping on as children, Love of God Sodality, clergy, and acolytes gathered in blessed procession.

After a con-celebrated High Holy Mass, all were invited to the Fellowship Hall for the parish's Easter Brunch, in which ham, smoked and fresh kielbasa, angel'd and deviled eggs, candy, coffee, bread, fruit salad, horseradish, and more were served to just about all who attended Mass.



Easter 2019 (Continued)

After the kids got their fill of food, they rushed to the basement hall for the PTO-sponsored Easter Egg Hunt.

Second Mass was celebrated at 10am – again, con-celebrated and with the reception to follow. It was a wonder-

ful, exuberant, joyful, fulfilling day in which the Word of God was delivered in full-force, the Love of God was on display in our fellowship, and the hats of God (is that pushing it???) were on the heads of many of the women in attendance.

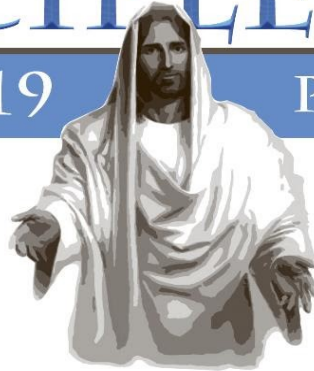
In all, over 130 came to worship on Easter and to revel in the glory of the Resurrection. We pray for the day when that becomes our weekly worship attendance! Come rejoice the Lord is Risen!



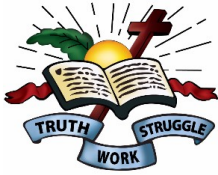
PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2019 PNCC



May, 2019



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

As we continue to share in the joy our Lord's Resurrection, during the month of May the Church has a special and important emphasis on the Blessed Virgin Mary: The Mother of God. Our Blessed Mother was the first Christian Disciple!

We read in the beginning of St. Luke's gospel: And the angel Gabriel said: "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Mary asked, "How can this be?" And Gabriel said, "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Mary replied, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

Then soon after Mary gave the first testimony to her cousin Elizabeth without using words. Mary continued to be present at and give witness to the most important events in Jesus' life, the Incarnation, His ministry, passion, death and resurrection. Our Blessed Mother was there at the wedding in Cana - the first of Jesus' signs where she made intercession and said "Do Whatever He tells you". She was there on Pentecost and saw the Holy Spirit transform and empower the disciples – the same Holy Spirit that inspired her to give her life to God and His will for her.

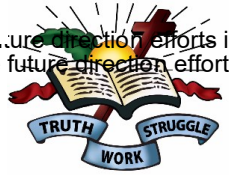


She said "Yes" to God and serves as an example for all of us. We are witnesses to Mary's ever-present faith...her willingness to accept all that was told to her...at the time she held in her arms her new baby boy, when she held in her arms the crucified body of our savior, her son, and then when she experienced the joy of our Lord's resurrection. Think of the struggles in your own life – consider the challenges we face as disciples in today's world – think of how hard it is at times to not question what is happening at the given moment. Our lives are a mix of happiness and sor-

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Our Supreme Council just completed its annual meeting and is reminding us about the importance of putting the future direction efforts into action

Our Supreme Council just completed its annual meeting and is reminding us about the importance of putting the future direction efforts into action row, and at times our faith can certainly be tested.



Mary, as the first Christian Disciple, serves as an example to all of us. Let us stand strong in our faith, replying as Mary did..." Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

On the inside front cover of this Newsletter is **The Angelus** from our PNCC Prayer Book (this is traditionally said at 6 am, 12 noon and 6 pm – this is why the church bells are rung at these times daily):

During the Easter Season the **Regina Coeli** is said in place of the Angelus:

- V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
- R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
- V. Has risen, as He said, alleluia.
- R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
- V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
- R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we humble ask You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the example of our Blessed Mother Mary – the Mother of God continue to inspire us as Jesus' disciples in our world today. Let us ask her intercession that we may be faithful to the Gospel and live following our crucified and risen Lord.

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

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

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

Our Supreme Council just completed its annual meeting and is reminding us about the importance of putting the future direction efforts into action in your parishes and lives. And don't forget that the first weekend in June is Clergy Appreciation Weekend as we will begin Sacred Vocations Month across our PNCC



Our Low Sunday Easter Potluck

One of my favorite new-ish traditions at St. Mary's is the occurrence of parish pot-lucks every few months during the year.

They are usually attached to some event, such as the weeks following Christmas or Easter, or even to something else. We have had them with children's plays, with the kick-off for our 100th Anniversary, and to even have short, parish-wide meetings.

Our goal this past Low Sunday, April 28? Well, hopefully just to get a few more people in church for a date known for its "low" attendance. It certainly didn't hurt that the food selection this time was one of the best: from bean to corn salads, fried chicken, Asian chicken, lasagna, chili, soup, golabki, mac-n-cheese, and more on one side of the room...to nearly as many desserts on

the other side of the room!

Fr. Jason celebrated a 10am Mass that morning, and Father Greg said the grace before our meal. As is tradition, the pastor and parish chair shares blessed eggs with the

congregation as they are in line to get their food. The eggs were blessed by Sub-Deacon Jim after grace.

Thanks to all who cooked, ate, prayed, sang, held a baby, washed a dish, and everything in-between!



May Days of Note



May Birthdays

- 1st – Marianne Viers (Misiewicz)
- 1st – Bruce Toburen
- 2nd – Kevin Burger
- 2nd – Tom Bedocs
- 2nd – Pat Glatzer
- 4th – Jimmy Ploskonka
- 6th – Joshua Knapp
- 7th – Sally Harper
- 9th – Demi Paulus
- 9th – Lolly Spilka
- 12th – Debbie Moritz
- 13th – Chuck Repede
- 15th – George Ziefle
- 16th – Adrienne Michalczyk
- 18th – John Grmovsek
- 18th – Jim Matteson
- 29th – Andre Spanjol
- 30th – Jo Ann Long
- 30th – Audrey Spanjol

Mary, Sweet Mary

Mary, sweet Mary
You are pure and divine
Your baby was Jesus
God's child your own
May the angels sing your praises
Then give them to you

Mary, sweet Mary
So kind and gentle
The bright star above you
A dove sitting on hay
Dear Jesus was put in your arms today

Mary, sweet Mary
You watched as Jesus grew
Joseph make Our Lord a carpenter too
Blessed are you who God chose himself
A virgin through The Holy Ghost

Mary, sweet Mary
When Jesus walked
He carried His cross
The love of your life
Was taking my place
So all my sins could be erased

Mary, sweet Mary
A Blessed Mother you are
In the month of May
We praise the glory of you
Pink flowers I put in my hair
The rosary, you love
Around my hands I wear

You are my comfort, My Queen
Mary, sweet Mary
I say a prayer to bless everyone
Wherever I go and whoever I see
I thank you for loving
The very soul of me

by Linda Ann Henry

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	Marlane Oleniacz

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
Geri S.	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	Mary Cawley
Edna Samelson	Jim Giles
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
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.
Michael McGivern	Sylvia Kowalski
Daniel Morgan	Emma Freshwater

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org

