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

### November 2022

Pastor: Rev. Jason H. Soltysiak

frjason82@gmail.com

Cell: 216-978-6645

Office hours- Mon & Fri 10-2

Parish Chair: Mrs. Susan Boehnlein sboehnlein66@gmail.com

Cell: (440) 781-7912



# Walking with the Saints

The first of November brings about a tide of change on the calendar of the Catholic Church. This year is an especially clear example of that - As always, the Solemnity of All Saints welcomes us on the 1st and the Commemoration of All Souls follows upon the 2nd.

Sundays begin to tell a different story as well - after a solid run of mostly Ordinary Time Sundays from the end of June, the energy really shifts this month - the first two Sundays are the 32nd and 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, which specifically speak to eschatology, or teaching on the end-times. November 20th is the Solemnity of Christ the King and the 27th is the First Sunday of Advent.

In that same church calendar, we honor saints daily- some more popular than others. I make a point to either preach or write about some saints each year to show how we can live our everyday lives while recalling the lives of the Saints...just in time to continue observing All Saints throughout this month. However, I wanted to be more practical and include some prayers to go along with the saint...



If you are anything like me, the alarm clock is the enemy- we have Saint Vitus to pray through as he is the patron saint of oversleeping. His emblem is the rooster (of course it is) and there even is a short prayer on his behalf we can say before bed: "For whom the angels danced, grant me a rested body And an alert mind in the morning."

That morning cup of coffee is always made better by acknowledging St. Drogo of Sebourg, patron saint of coffee. And since it is 2022, we are probably enjoying that coffee while staring at our phones for the



first time that day...Gabriel the Archangel is the patron saint of all messages delivered (and of the telephone). But you know... there is a patron saint of smartphones. That would be St. Lucy...who had her eyes gouged out of her head in holy martyrdom in the early 300's. I suppose we are doing the same with these things, just at a bit of a slower pace...

Saint Christopher is the patron saint of trav-

St. Mary's P.N.C.C 5375 Broadview Road Parma, OH 44134

Office/Hall Phone: 216-661-9246 Email: stmarypncc@sbcglobal.net

www.stmaryspncc.org

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eling and worthy of intercession on our daily commute. Perhaps after we start our engines: "St Christopher, warrior saint and protector of travelers guard me in my commute this day. That I may arrive safely at work and return home at end of day. You waded through dangerous waters With others depending on your strength for safety. Bring me unharmed through the stress and danger of traffic. Grant me patience with other drivers and help me carry any inconvenience with grace. Turn my frustration into a prayer for their safe travel. Ride with me as I travel so that it will be a time of prayer and reflection on the journey God has set me on, from this moment until I return to home. Amen."

And the good Lord knows that not every work day was created equal! Sometimes we have one of *those days*. St. Dymphna, an Irish Martyr of the 7<sup>th</sup> Century, is the patroness of mental health, stress, and anxiety. Should we need it, may we call upon her intercession like this: "Good Saint Dymphna, great wonder-worker in every affliction of mind and body, I humbly implore your powerful intercession with Jesus through Mary, the Health of the Sick, in my present need. (Mention it.) Saint Dymphna, martyr of purity, patroness of those who suffer with

nervous and mental afflictions, beloved child of Jesus and Mary, pray to Them for me and obtain my request. Amen."

Sometimes, days run long and either by choice or by treat, we end up in the drive-



# **Opening Article (Cont)**

thru line to get some unhealthy food on our way home. Saint Benedict of Nursia, the patron saint of all Europe and a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> century saint is also the patron saint of protection against...food poisoning. He was the founder of Western Monasticism and, well, though it may be a bit intense, sometimes we know when we are taking a bit of a risk when it comes to what we eat! "Admirable Saint and Doctor of Humility, you practiced what you taught, assiduously praying for God's glory and lovingly fulfilling all work for God and the benefit of all human beings. You know the many physical dangers that surround us today often caused or occasioned by human inventions. Guard us against poisoning of the body as well as of mind and soul, and thus be truly a "Blessed" one for us. Amen."



Finally, if we are relaxed on our couches and easy chairs at the end of a long day and de-

cide to catch the Cavs game, Saint Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes and sports may be called upon to grant the strength (fortitude) to keep your soul calm, even if your fandom leads you otherwise: "O Lord, grant us the spirit of fortitude, so that guided by the example of the martyr St. Sebastian, we may learn to bear witness to the Christian Faith and patiently support the sufferings of life. Through Christ Our Lord.

With the other prayers we know to use through the day and a bit of extra guidance from some otherwise obscure saints, may we walk with them and call upon their protection and guidance from above!

Fr. Jason

# **Blessing of Animals**

St. Mary's holds on to what is a pretty unique tradition of honoring Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of our beloved animals, on his actual feast day of October 4. Usually, Mass is celebrated in the morning, but Fr. Jason was away on a family vacation. Deacon Jim was pressed into service for the event blessing service. "Blesser" is one of the Minor Orders that a clergyman receives on the road to becoming a Deacon-then-priest. It is shortly before becoming a Sub-Deacon.

At 6:30, the liturgy began with song, and multiple animals chimed in as well. There were 40+ dogs, 4 cats and 1 gecko in attendance, eyeing each other up, wondering who was the alpha animal of



the parking lot. After recalling God's plan of humanity as leader of earthly creation, a reading led to a petition for all animals and to some individual blessings. When asked how the blessing went, young Fido, a labradoodle, replied "rough".







### Clamski Bake

Appreciation for those who worked towards the Clamski Bake fundraiser on Friday, October 7th. We have been doing quite a bit lately at the parish and sometimes, not every fundraiser ends up on the "Greatest Hits" CD. Thanks to Chuck Repede, who planned the event well, but the response just didn't end up where we had hoped.



# **Altar Help**

In a little gift to his grandmother hitting the floor for her seventh decade on God's green earth, we had a little help come forth to assist at Holy Mass as an acolyte. Humble young man he was, when given the chance to present his name as anything from Iron Man to Pedro Serrano to anything else...chose to go with his parent-given name. Thanks again!

# Pierogi Making

Bright and early on Saturday morning, October 15, voices filled the basement hall of St. Mary's as potato pierogi were being prepped and pinched for the upcoming Heat and Eat Sale as well as for use of the Food Ministry program.



It was decided to have a pierogi session where the product could create a few cheaper meals for our weekly community outreach in our Food Ministry. As over 75 meals are provided weekly, any savings is great! But the plan also included some fundraising, obviously so-important to our overall plan. Dozens were reserved for the upcoming cold food sale (see inside cover flyer for more info!).

The pierogi were delicious, the help plentiful and the spirit great! Our next normal



blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

St. Mary's has long taken this call of our Savior seriously in our monthly-turned-weekly Food Ministry. Parishioners John & Eileen Kasperczyk provided Christ's answer on Wednesday, Oct 26, with 80 servings of pasta with meat sauce and green beans going out for the needy of our community. God's blessings to them and all who continue to support this ministry to God's people.

monthly pierogi session will be on Friday morning, November 18. Stop by for an hour or two! We finish with lunch.



# **Food Ministry Assistance**

Luke 14:12-14 was the Gospel for Monday, October 31 and it states "On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees. He said to the host who invited him,

"When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or sisters or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the



# The XXVI PNCC General Synod & 125th Anniversary

October was a month to remember not only for our parish of St. Mary's, but in the life of our holy Polish National Catholic Church. The XXVI General Synod was called to take place from Tuesday, October 18, until Friday, October 21, 2022. The first order of business on Tuesday night was the nomination for the Office of Bishop. The pool of candidates are all PNCC priests. Though one accepted a nomination, a withdrawal came the following morning. The hierarchy of the Church promises creativity in adjusting for the nonelection of a bishop over the next four years, with a plan to be presented in two years at the diocesan synods.

The preponderance of the business-at-hand at any synod is the review of reports and this synod was no exception. While the National Church utilized a free service to email the reports, they still needed to be open for dis-

cussion and accepted. Some reports that received particular discussion were the PNCC-Roman Catholic Dialogue, Vocations, Convo/ National United Youth Association, Budget, and Constitution Commission. The Constitution was delicately adjusted to be a more accessible document with a large majority vote. A new Youth Commission was established.

Mike Wisniewski and Elaine Ploskonka were the two elected delegates representing St. Mary's. Barbara Wisniewski was a delegate appointed by the PNU for her district, Deacon Jim Ploskonka attended as a guest and Fr. Jason attended as pastor.

Holy Mass was celebrated on Wednesday afternoon of the Synod as it was the "original" opening day for the event. It was to be attended by all synod attendees.

The synod concluded on Friday afternoon, with some taking the opportunity to leave for home and Sunday commitments. However, many stayed for Saturday morning's Holy Mass at St. Stanislaus Cathedral which was to observe the 125th Anniversary of the organization of the PNCC. All Bishops of the Union of Scranton (PNCC and Nordic Catholic Church) concelebrated the Mass. Deacon Jim was the Deacon of the Mass, proclaiming the Gospel, while Fr. Jason served as a Master of Ceremony. It was a memorable event.

A banquet followed back at the hotel to honor the anniversary. A delicious luncheon was served



while remarks were heard from many of those prelates in attendance. Due to time constraints most of the St. Mary's contingent hit the road shortly after dinner concluded in order to prepare for Sunday worship back in Ohio, some 6 hours away.

Far Left: Fr. Jason and father, Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak. Bottom Left: Fr. Jason & Dcn. Jim assisting. Bottom Middle: Our Bishop, Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko. Bottom Right: Dcn. Jim processes in the Book of Gospels. Right: Mike & Barb Wisniewski with friends. Above Right: Our parishioners at the Synod.









# Soup Supper & Sale

On Friday evening, October 28, a second biannual (for 2022, at least!) Soup Supper and Sale took place in the Fellowship Hall at St. Mary's, led by Elaine Repede and daughter Martha Repede. As it was the Feast Day of Saints Simon and Jude, they began their day at building some lunch – thanks! church with 9am Holy Mass, honoring these apostles of Jesus Christ.



Then, the work commenced. Yes, much prep work was done in advance, but plenty was needed still. The smell of onions filled the air as crock pots were filled for the evening's customers. The work only stopped for a half hour or so as Martha bought everyone in the

The dinner featured 5 soups, with 2 bowls as part of the dinner, a variety of rolls, drink and

dessert for just \$10. Quarts were on sale afterward, with well over a dozen different flavors ready. There was quite an impressive response from our parishioners to provide soup for this event.

Bellies were filled and people were happy! It is an event we hope sticks around for a long while.



# Halloween Party

One of the neatest organic events to have grown at St. Mary's is the Halloween Party for the kids on the Sunday before Halloween. It has long been led by Evonne Pryer (with assistance from Edyta Schwartz), and well-organized for our children. But the event took on something of a parish-wide party over the last few years.

Now, some of our parishioners are as excited as the children! Kids got in costume and prepared to trick-or-treat through our hall, with many parishioners providing a little gift of candy, cookies, and other Halloween classics. There even was a "Special Prize" that was given to a random Halloweener! And though Brady won a beach ball about a foot taller than him, he said his favorite part of the party was playing with the ball with his two buddies in the church basement.

Thanks to all who have taken part and formed this neat Sunday tradition of our parish.









# United Y.M.S. of R. *Winter Clothing Drive*

The United Y.M.S. of R. Board is calling on all Y.M.S. of R. Branches and Polish National Catholic Churches to *be* Christ to your community!

Needed: Articles of clothing to help dull the winter chill.

Your Reward: A good deed that reflects the love of Jesus.

Church Reward: Monetary Check to host a social gathering at your parish to spread fellowship.

1st Place \$200.00, 2nd place \$100.00, 3rd place \$50.00

The drive begins November 13, 2022, and will conclude January 8, 2023.



### Winter Clothing Drive

Top 3 Parishes with the most points wins a cash prize!

# The Scorecard

Coats: 25 points Sweatshirts: 15 points Pants: 10 points T-shirts: 5 points Winter hat: 5 points Gloves: 5 points Underwear: 1 point Undershirt: 1 point Socks: 1 point per pair

Monetary donation: \$1 = 1 POINT Ex. \$200 = 200 points

### UNITED Y.M.S. OF R.

For more information, contact your diocesan rep:

**Buffalo-Pitt:** Bob Giczkowski & Dave Pecynski

Central: Andrew Humphreys Eastern: Fr. Tom Walsh Western: Dcn. Jim Ploskonka

### Various Announcements

BIBLE STUDY – Is there a different time of day or day of the week that you may be open to participate in a Bible Study? Let Fr. Jason know! We are looking for some ideas to have other people participate in what is Sacrament in the PNCC.

<u>CANON</u> – For all of November, we will use the 3rd Eucharistic Prayer on p. 84, the Canon of St. Basil

HEAT & EAT – Fundraiser takes place Saturday, Nov. 12th. The event echoes last year's successful sale where frozen food items coupled with fresh bakery to allow people to circle our Fellowship Hall and help us out.

HELP WANTED – For Heat & Eat – please let Cathy Avondet or Elaine Ploskonka know that you can bring bakery and what it may be. Also, a golabki-making party will be at 9am on Thursday, November 10 led by the trusty Barb Wisniewski.

SHOE DRIVE – Last Call! We've gathered thousands of pairs of shoes and our collection will be ending soon. We had another drive-thru event this past Saturday in our parking lot. As you prep for winter, please bring in those shoes you don't plan on wearing again.

<u>OPERATION: CHRISTMAS CHILD</u> – Our collection has begun! A reminder- boxes filled with gifts, school supplies, etc. &

assembled by age/gender and are delivered to children in need somewhere in the world. A cash donation of \$10 for postage is needed as well. Boxes are available - see event coordinator Evonne Pryer with questions. The collection week is Nov. 14-21, with our parish packing party on Sunday, November 13.

CHILI COOK-OFF — Sponsored by the YMSofR takes place Sunday, Nov. 13th. The Cleveland Browns will be in sunny Miami for a 1pm game, but the weather will be chili in northeast Ohio. We are looking for traditional and non-traditional chili that will be sampled and judged by those in attendance, with prizes handed out after the judging. Open to everyone, whether you bring a pot of chili or not- we still need judges/tasters! We usually stay thru the game's 1st half.

SQUARES FOR SALE – See Ron Ference after Holy Mass November 6 & 13 to purchase some squares for the upcoming Chili Cook-Off. Squares are two for \$5, and the winner of each quarter will receive \$50.

ALL SOULS—Cemetery service took place last Sunday (write-up in next month's newsletter), but we remember our loved ones all month. Envelopes are available around the church for you to fill out and remember your loved ones. All submitted names will be prayed aloud during Sunday

Mass on November 6, 13, & 20. A final Mass will be held on the Feast of St. Andrew, Wednesday November 30 where all submitted names will be remembered at once.

<u>CLOTHES COLLECTION</u> – First announcement, more info to come! We know that after dropping off so many shoes the last few months, many people have asked if there would be a chance to bring in other clothes as well. The YMSofR Clothing Collection begins soon.

<u>CUB SCOUTS</u> – St. Mary's recently reached an agreement to become the host parish for Cub Scout Pack 216. While they continue to meet at Ridgewood United Church, they are beginning the transfer process shortly and could use some kids! Flyers located near the parish boxes.

**ORDINATION DATE SET** – The Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, Bishop-Ordinary of the PNCC Western Diocese has announced that Dcn. Jim Ploskonka will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, December 10 at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL. A reception at the Cathedral will be provided for all in attendance. He will then take on the status of a "reserve priest" with subsequent assignments from the Bishop. His role at St. Mary's actually won't adjust much- it will reflect that of what Fr. Greg has done the last ten or so years: he will be available to substitute when Fr. Jason is away, distribute permissible Sacraments, etc. If any further questions, please ask away!

# Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

November 6— Hanna Pryer of. by daughter Evonne Pryer

November 13- Ron Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe

November 20- Ann Stepanik of. by son Gene Stepanik

November 27 – Adolph & Helen Kasperczyk of. by son John & family



December 4- Stella & Jack White (Wedding Anv.) of. by daughter Patty Temesi

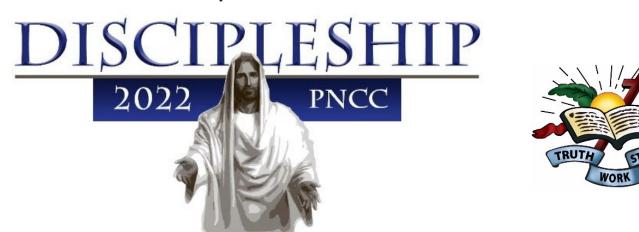
December 11 - Anthony Soltysiak (birthday) of. by brother Fr. Jason

December 18- Josephine Blatnik (Anv. in Heaven) of. by family

**December 25 - No Intention Taken on Christmas** 

We have scheduled all of 2022 Masses. Fr. Jason will begin taking 2023 Mass requests beginning in mid-November

### **PNCC Future Directions Update**



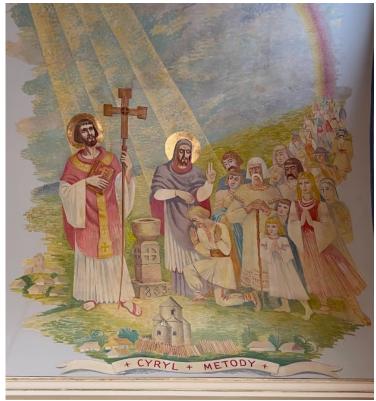
### November 2022 - Saints Cyril & Methodius

During the month of November as we continue our focus of Being Eucharistic People – we reflect on Saints Cyril and Methodius "the Apostles to the Slavs".

Scripture: Mark 6:34-44

### Reflection and Action Item:

St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodius were born in the early 9th century in what is today Greece within a devout Christian family. They both dedicated their lives to Christ within the Church living this out many different ways - including Cyril's being a professor in a University and Methodius becoming the abbot of a monastery - but they are best known for being "the Apostles to the Slavs." Called by the Holy Spirit and sent by the Church as missionaries to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the peoples of Eastern Europe, the brothers traveled to what was then called "Great Moravia" which included territories that are today part of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Serbia. There they had great success in founding churches and training new clergy, preaching to the people, baptizing them and feeding them with the Body and Blood of the Lord. In order to translate the Scriptures - start-



ing with the Gospels and the Psalms - and liturgical texts of the Church into the language of the Slavs, they even devised an alphabet. Although it has passed through some stages of development over the many years, is still used today in many languages.

The spiritual (and even cultural influence) of these brothers on so many of us within the Polish National Catholic Church cannot be overstated. It is as if Jesus saw so many people hungering for Him, and asked Cyril and Methodius to go and feed them on his behalf, and because they willingly and sacrificially did, the Slavic people have been encountering Christ in the proclamation of the Word and in receiving

# PNCC Future Dir. (Con't)

Him in the Most Holy Eucharist for over 1,150 years! St. Cyril and St. Methodius, pray for us!

Action Item: Follow the loving and courageous example of "the Apostles to the Slavs" and share your own faith with some else in this simple way: Invite them to come to Mass with you.

**Schedule** Mass and Event (Breakfast) for those who serve

**Encourage** Giving to those in need on Giving Tuesday

**Schedule** Drive of Collection to help homeless veterans in some way

**Schedule** Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education



May God bless you; may our Lord guide you, may our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph intercede for us. As we continue to celebrate Being Eucharistic People and also this month Thanksgiving – let our discipleship reflect the importance of receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Holy Communion and showing our Thanks to God by how we choose to live our lives serving Him and others

### **PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee**

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman



St. Mary's was saddened to learned of the passing of Ralph Zaun, the only person in our

parish to have been voted "chairman emeritus". He was the 11th (of14) person to serve as parish committee chairman. Elected first in 1972, he served until 2010. We, as a parish, are obviously indebted to the work done during his tenure, including the addition of the Fellowship Hall and SOCL rooms in the late 1970's. Following here is his obituary:

Ralph Zaun, age 93, entered eternal rest on October 25, 2022. Beloved husband and high school sweetheart of 70 years to June (nee Kwiatek). Loving father of Laura Samelson (deceased) and David Zaun (Sheri). Dear grandfather of Heather Zaun (Adam Zbydnowski) and



Danny Zaun (Vanessa). Cherished great grandfather of Harlee and Logan. Brother of Richard and Carolyn. Uncle to many. Preceded in death by his parents, Ralph W. and Evelyn Zaun(nee Pfhal). Ralph was an architect of many Parma Schools and Alliance High School. He was a 40 year Chairman of St. Mary's PNC. He enjoyed his model trains and gatherings with his family. US Army Veteran.

Visitation took place on Friday, October 28 at Yurch FH from 4-7pm with the Funeral Mass taking place Saturday October 29 at St. Mary's. A luncheon was held at the parish after interment at Holy Cross Cemetery in Brookpark. Eternal rest grant unto him, o Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.



### **November Days of Note**

# Charles &

### **November Birthdays**

1	-	Brady Soltysiak
5	-	Ron Ference
6	-	Alice Petrie
7	-	Kathleen Beres
7	-	Mike Wisniewski
11	-	Mike Matis
15	-	Mary Ann Loschelder
16	-	Mike Paulus
18	-	Eileen Kasperczyk
19	-	Bill Glatzer
21	-	Krista O'Connor
22	-	Josephine Ference
22	-	David Kubala
24	-	Jeff Dreger
25	-	Michael Petrie
27	-	Vicente Suarez
29	-	Eliza Dreger



### **November Anniversaries**

Vicente & Alison SuarezMarty & Sue BengelaDale & Pattie Dotson

Have we missed a birthday or anniversary? Just give us a shout so we can fix any errors that have been made:-)

Visit us online at
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OH on Facebook or
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YouTube channel

# Thankful & Grateful

There's always a reason, for us to be thankful . . . there's always a chance to show we are grateful. But, so often we are not, appreciative for all things especially when hardships a brand new day brings. It's easier to complain, to criticize and grumble to shake our heads in disbelief then to be meek and humble. For, when things don't go our way, we blame God and we curse not realizing our lack of trust only makes our problems worse. There are plenty of reasons, for us to be grateful . . . but, first we need to learn in everything to be thankful!

# By Deborah Ann Belko

Poem based on Paul's 1st Letter to the Thessalonians 5:18

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

IN EVERY THING

Give Thanks



### **Our Prayer List**

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer **Bob Kaczmarek** Bill Kastak Anna Dawidziuk George & Linda Makovicka John Spilka Johanna Markiewicz Mary Ann Loschelder Shauna Smullen June Zaun Marty Bengela Tom Putynski Polly Gajda Millie Dominik Kathleen Beres Joseph Bischoff David Micka Jeff Lukas Ed Pierson George Bennett Amy Dreger Pattie Dotson Elizabeth Starnawski Jack Spilka David Vaden Elaine Repede Wanda Clark Beth Chihill Michael Cosevin **Helen Cummings** Laina Dachtal Mike Matis Jay Grabowsky Pam Chesar Cecelia Hall Caroline Kunes Linda Marks Thomas Lill John & Anne Nemetz Rhonda Smith Al Piniecki Carol Boesch Joanie True Daniel Rinella Tom Slomka Fr. Tom Sheha Wojciech Fedorowicz Ben Soltis Pam Tropiano Linda Vect Dennis and Sue Vect Marcus Vaughn, Jr. Bryson Dzuroff Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak Marty & Cheryl DeCara Jane Hunter **Dennis Thome** The Finnie Family Carlene Fliss Jim Fliss Jr. John Wisniewski Cathy Pieciak Nan Cramer Claudette Lukas Mike Pescitelli Kathy Robertson Mary Cawley Richard & Edna Samelson Jim Giles Tammy Teubl Bill Zychowski Loretta Baldwin Donna Kidd Paulette Lilli Azriel G. Lew Heifner Marilyn Girard Courtney Austin Stephanie Milla Shannon Alberino Jayden Pieciak Sophie Mae Jeremy Steinbrick Katie Stallbaum Marcia Klein Kim Penney Robert Owen Miller Patrick Kmitt Michael McGivern **Daniel Morgan** Barb & Jim Lukas Renee Lukas Claire Hunek

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

