

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

July 2017

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Why Ordinary?

I never was a fan of the term “Ordinary Time.” Beginning with the first Sunday after the Sunday that falls within the holiday/octave of Corpus Christi, the Church rolls out...Ordinary Time.

As an apologist for the Church, I am fully aware that at times, names kind of fall by the wayside. But I guess that “Ordinary Time” is still better than the previous moniker “the Xth Sunday after Pentecost.”

It is the season where the color is green and we get the real meat-and-potatoes of the Christian Faith. Where the entire 40-day Christmas Season tells the story of Jesus’ birth and early life and the 50 days of Easter tells the story of the Post-Resurrection world, we are now presented with thematic, connected approach to Jesus’ life.

As someone who preaches every Sunday, there is definitely the opportunity to pick a sort-of sub-theme and build off each week’s sermon, like telling a long, connected story. For me, this works great, and makes 10000%



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sense...for you, the listener, it might be choppy if I reference something I studied for hours the week before and spoke about it for just 2 minutes last Sunday.

We are able to see the benefits of Ordinary Time in those main themes. The Church has written Prefaces (that thing the priest sings before the Sanctus/Holy Holy Holy) that highlight these themes. They are: the Paschal Mystery/People of God, the call to discipleship, the teaching and ministry of Jesus, the miracles of Jesus, and the Eschatological teachings of Jesus.

A couple of them are easy—for a couple Sundays of the year, we may hear when Jesus called Peter and Andrew, James and John from their simple life to the life of an apostle. Miracles are easy too—from healings, water into wine, bringing someone back to life, we can be quite sure when this happens.

The teachings of Jesus end up being tougher to pinpoint...but more fun to preach about. When Jesus heals a blind man, well, we know he sees now! And when Jesus says “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matthew 24:36), well, that just

gives a preacher ammunition to explain what Jesus means, not just “what happened.” These matters of theology that deal with “end times” are filed under *Eschatology*.

Ordinary Time shows its purpose in the details—it is in this season we hear of the dredges of Christ’s ministry, the direction he traveled and why, the people he met and the impact on his personality and ministry, and the slow climb to Calvary that began with the words that came out of his mouth.

Where Lent sticks to Lent-y things and Advent sticks to Pre-Jesus things, Ordinary Time is allowed to change focus without warning—from a miracle to a deep teaching back to a miracle, all in a three week span.

I suppose that is what it makes it “ordinary”, in that the focus isn’t necessarily on an event or holiday/feast day considered “extraordinary.” The crux of this article is that Ordinary Time does take up more than half of the Church Calendar—which means we wear a lot of green! But it also means that we fill in some gaps of our understanding of the faith.

If the Resurrection is our focal point, we have to know what wheels in Jesus’ mind had to turn for him to give himself up to death—it is in the events of Ordinary Time that this question is developed, pondered, and answered.

Fr. Jason

1st Communion Sunday

On the Solemnity of Pentecost, June 4, 2017, four young men of the Parish received Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. The previous day, they all received the Sacrament of Penance.

Blake, Kyle, Owen, and Scott had studied with Fr. Jason on Monday afternoons since the autumn, cramming in extra-long sessions over the last couple months.

They studied the PNCC 1st Holy Communion Catechism as well as videos of Bible Stories—their attention spans loved the movies...but not when Fr. Jason actually read from the Bible...guess he has to work on his different voices!

The PTO sponsored a brunch afterward for the boys and did a wonderful job—thank you! There are many, many more pictures to look at as well by visiting our facebook page or our parish website.



Confirmation Sunday

After nearly two years of early Saturday morning classes with Father Jason (that is, before the one dance class, which would be before the *other* dance class!) Ms. Halina Eleanor ESTHER Dreger was confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski on the morning of June 25, 2017.

Holy Mass was celebrated at 10am with a brunch afterward. A beautiful job was done to honor Halina at the brunch. Bishop was welcomed by his cousin Rose Kroenen with the traditional bread and salt. She had threatened to call on some memories from years past...but kept it professional.

Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Bilinski, Father Jason Soltysiak and Father Greg Gronn. They both also assisted Bishop with the administration of the Sacrament



Halina proved adept at remembering concepts of the Catechism as well as questioning how current-day situations lie in the beliefs of the Church. She is a devoted acolyte and has desired, upon her Confirmation, to go through even more classes to become a Lector at St. Mary's. God Bless Halina, her family, and all who were enriched by the Spirit on her day of Confirmation.



Corpus Christi Sunday & Fathers' Day

On Sunday, June 18, the parish enjoyed celebrating the presence of Jesus Christ during Holy Mass with the Eucharistic Corpus Christi Procession as well as a delicious brunch sponsored by the PTO for Fathers' Day.



*Corpus Christi
Procession*



National SOCL Meets

The National and Western Diocesan Commission for the School of Christian Living met at St. Mary's June 21-22. There, they had meetings to further formulate lessons and ideas that will be

brought forth in the coming months in the Polish National Catholic Church. We were blessed with the presence of three bishops: Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bishop Stanley Bilinski, and Bishop

Paul Sobiechowski. Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak and Fr. Charles Zawistowski attended, as well as other various board members. Mass was celebrated by Prime Bishop on Wednesday evening, the 21st.



Various Announcements

Thank You

Countless "thank-yous" are in order for the work that was done over last weekend's 4th Annual PolishFest. This major undertaking for our small parish has become a great success in our community. Much work was done on the frontlines for our customers as well as in the dungeon of the kitchen, before, during, and after hours. A wrap-up meeting takes place on July 31st at 6pm – Please plan to attend to offer opinions and/or email Fr. Jason beforehand.

YMSofR Golf Tournament

Will be held on Sat. August 19 in Buffalo, NY. We would still love for St. Mary's to be well-represented. Flyers are posted.

Dinner & A Car Show

The time is now to begin making preparations for the annual Dinner and a Car show. Event coordinator Steve Fesz has been blanketing the car show community for weeks now, hyping our food, venue, and peo-

Pierogi Making

On Saturday, June 24, the parish came together to make potato pierogi for the upcoming PolishFest.

The weather cooperated, which meant the dough was good and the turnout was excellent. We made upwards of 3500

ple: now, we have to make good on his word! It takes place Saturday Aug. 5th with an Aug. 6th rain date.

Youth Gathering

Takes place at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, OH July 18-21 – it is open to children ages 8-18. Parents – if you have any questions, please reach out to Fr. Jason, who will attend and provide transportation. Info packets are available under the bulletin board.

NUC Convention

The National United Choirs Convention and Music workshop takes place later in July at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH. We have two attending from St. Mary's. Please keep all music ministers in your prayers.

Plastic Bags

You know you have plastic bags full of plastic bags in your home. The Mission Team is calling for a collection of these items, which will then be woven to make temporary bed-

pierogi, all wrapping up before late afternoon hit. We were even treated to a surprise pierogi packer, as Bishop Bilinski was in town for the next day's Confirmation and decided to lend a hand (two, actually) to help the cause. Thanks Bishop! And thanks to everyone who helped. Let's do it again July 22 as we get ready for the Car Show!

ding for the needy. This program will benefit those who have nowhere else to lay their heads in the coming months.

Women's Conference

A women's retreat will be taking place October 18-21 in Erie, PA, sponsored by the National Society Board of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Entitled, "Who Am I?", it is open to all PNCC women age 16+. Information & registration packets are posted on the Bulletin Board and can be found online at pncc.org.

Mass Intentions

There are a few open Sunday's to offer Mass for a loved one. Please see Fr. Jason. Available are 7/23, 8/6, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, & 10/29.

Pierogi Making

Takes place Saturday, July 22 for the upcoming Dinner and a Car Show. We will make all 3 flavors– please help!



Our Parish Graduates

Ethan Long – Ethan Joseph Francis Long graduated from Parma Senior High with a 3.5 GPA. His future plans consist of attending Columbus State for 2 years and then transferring to a 4-year college. His interests are in forensic science specific to law enforcement and writing fiction novels.

Ethan has been part of the St. Mary's church family since 2010. He made his 1st Communion in 2015 and was confirmed in 2016. He has participated in multiple Convos, Diocesan Youth Gatherings, and was the Western Diocesan Youth Representative at the XVII Diocesan Synod in 2016. His other involvements at church include pierogi & kielbasa making, the car show, PolishFest set-up & tear-down, and parading at the Constitution Day parade.

Matthew Moritz – Matthew graduated from Avon High School on June 2nd with a High Honor's diploma (top 5% of class). Outside of classes he played on the Avon Eagles soccer team for four years and was awarded the following honors: Varsity Letter, Scholar Athlete Medal for highest GPA

of senior players, 2016 Outstanding Character Award from the Avon Soccer League and the Coach's Award."

Matthew also played cello in the High School Chamber Orchestra and electric cello in the Avon Electric Orchestra. He is a member of the Avon National Honor Society.

Matthew will be attending The Ohio State University in the fall where he was accepted into the Honor's College. He will study in the College of Arts & Sciences for his undergraduate degree in Neuroscience. He also plans to continue playing cello and soccer (intramural) while at OSU. Matthew's long term goal is to attend Graduate School to obtain a PH.D and perform Neuroscience research. Matthew is the son of Pete & Debbie Moritz and the grandson of Bill & Joan Kastak.

Pete Moritz – Pete graduated from Steven's Institute of Technology on May 24th with a Master of Science degree in Network & Communication Management & Services. Pete obtained his degree online in 6 years while working full time. Since this is his second Master's degree, his long term goal

is to be completely done with college...forever. Pete is the husband of Debbie Moritz, the son of Fred and Louise Moritz and the son-in-law of Bill & Joan Kastak.

Lauren Catherine O'Connor – Lauren will be graduating from Eastern Michigan University on August 12th, 2017. She is receiving her Master's from the College of Health and Human Services in Occupational Therapy. *Honors and Involvement*: EMU Pi Theta Epsilon Vice President: National Occupational Therapy Honor Society, students must be in top 35% of their class to be eligible. *Graduate Honors*- Cum Laude, 3.5 – 3.7 GPA. She will be sitting for her licensure exam (National Board Certification of Occupational Therapy; NBCOT) in September, 2017.

Brett Spilka - Brett graduated with honors Cum Laude, from the University of Cincinnati with a "Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences" degree. He will be taking some time off before going to grad school to pursue an "assistant anesthesiologist" degree. He was working, making meals and living in an apartment with 3 other friends while keeping his grades up.

PNCC Future Directions Subcommittee June update

July 1, 2017

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,
As we begin the month of July and are enjoying the summer months of this Year of Commitment, our Holy Church calls to us constant prayer. We thank Fr. Michal Gitner for preparing this month's Future Direction Commitment Message.

It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." (Lk 11:1 NASB).

A strange request by Jesus' disciples, one would assume Jewish men familiar with synagogue religious services. Is that a clue that they were asking for something that nobody taught them before? Were they dissatisfied with just 'saying' their prayers or reciting the Psalms?

Most of us have absorbed the idea of prayer as an action, a behavior, a recitation, a private time in which we think devout thoughts - and almost always with the assumption that this somehow pleases God. Sure it does, since God seems to be easily pleased. But the biblical God is seeking and wanting union with us much more than we are seeking union with God. This is the theme of themes of the whole biblical text, or as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel says, "God is seeking man."

When Jesus goes into the desert for forty days (Matthew 4:1–11), he does not recite prayers or read the Hebrew Bible (the printing press had not been invented yet!) The Gospels make no mention of Jesus reciting any formula prayers, except at the Last Supper where he and his disciples likely sung the Hallel, or Psalms 113–118 (Matthew 26:30) at the close of the Passover meal.

However, we read about Jesus "leaving the house early" and "going apart to a lonely place to pray" (Mark 1:35). Could it be that it is much easier to live in this state of conscious, loving union with God when there is nothing else competing for our attention?

Hence, if prayer is understood as conscious loving union with God, and with a person in front of me, then we touch the deepest meaning of it. In that sense prayer becomes a way of being in the world, a stance, a way of connecting.

All prayer is practicing for prayer. No one really knows how to pray, as Paul states "*We cannot choose words to pray properly, so the Spirit expresses our pleas in a way beyond words—and God knows.*" (Romans 8:26–27). Without an inner life, our outer prayer will soon become superficial, ego-centered, and even counter-productive on the spiritual path.

Jesus own teaching on prayer is very direct:

*He warns his followers about the very real dangers of public prayer or "standing up in the synagogues" (Matthew 6:5), as he puts it.

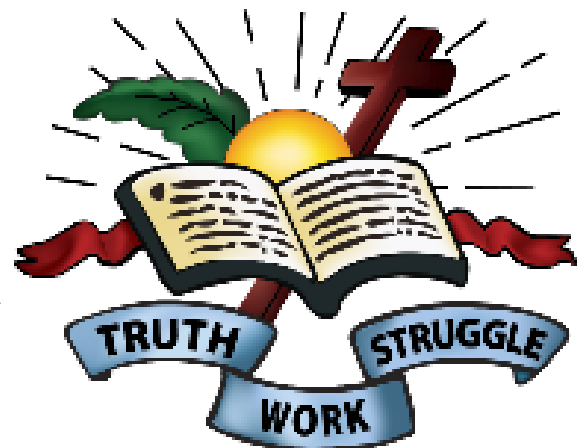
*You should go to your private room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in that secret place." (Matthew 6:6)

*"In your prayers, do not babble on as the pagans do, thinking that by using many words they will make themselves be heard. Do not be like them!" (Matthew 6:7)

What all of these teachings of Jesus seem to say is that we probably need "unsaying prayer," the prayer of quiet or contemplative prayer, to balance out all "saying prayer."

Jesus never emphasizes posture, timing, or gesture—only intention—which is why we can indeed "pray constantly" (1 Thessalonians 5:16), for it is: **God** is the one who loves and prays through us, **Jesus** shares and participates in this flow with and in his Body (that is us!), and the **Spirit** keeps it all moving, dynamic, alive—and always flowing outward!

(Based on *Prayer in the Catholic Tradition: A Handbook of Practical Approaches*, Robert J. Wicks by Franciscan Media)



July Days of Note

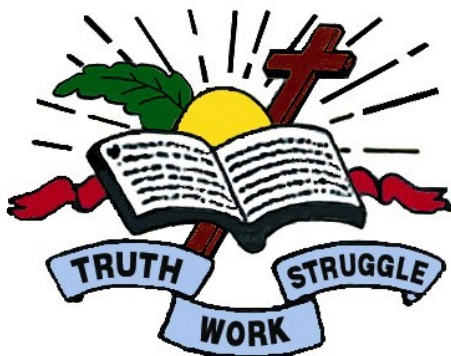


July

- 4th – Jolanta Misiewicz
- 16th – Chris Paulus
- 17th – Frank Dominik
- 21st – Father Jason
- 22nd – Sara Long
- 24th – Jennifer LeMessina
- 25th – Martha Repede
- 25th – Chester Warzala
- 27th – Joan Kastak
- 30th – Barbara Fesz
- 31st – Susan Harper
- 31st – Sandra Harper



- 14th – John & Andrea Grmovsek
- 20th – Michael & Carole D'Arcy
- 21st – Jim & Elaine Ploskonka
- 27th – Mike & Chris Paulus



"Jesus on the 4th of July"

We gather 'round to celebrate
On Independence Day
Pay homage to our country
As the children run and play.

With barbecues and picnics
And fireworks in the air
The flag we own is proudly flown
To show how much we care.

The stars and stripes spell freedom
She waves upon the breeze
While bursts of colors can be seen
Above the towering trees.

This is all quite wonderful
We revel in delight
But God above in divine love
Has brought this day to light.

With just a stroke of liberty
A touch of His great hand
He gave democracy to us
And helped this country stand.

The stripes upon our stately flag
Were touched by His sweet grace
Each star of white that shines so bright
Reflects His loving face.

So as you turn to face the flag
For battles that were fought
Be filled with pride for those who died
And freedoms that were bought.

But don't forget to thank the One
That gives the bright display
The reason why we paint the sky
On Independence Day

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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
Tom Petrie	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Len Pryer
Marty Bengala	Kathleen Beres
Floyd & Elaine Rzonca	Frank Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Chester & Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Hilda Grabowski

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Gayle Green
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Mark & Kim Andreas	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Don and Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzurhoff	Al Tomasello
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
Duda Family	Daniel Morgan
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Johanna Markiewicz	Edna Samelson
Kim Blaha	Bill Chambers Sr.
Wanda Heffner	Geri S.
Donna Kidd	Colleen Howard
Muffie B.	Nancy Jablonowski
Marilyn Girard	George Pofok
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Coleen Fisteck
Marcia Klein	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Mike Sikut	Larry Bernacki

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

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

Visit us online at
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