

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

April 2015

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Closing the Lenten Journey

As you sit down to read this, we have already lived through Holy Week 2015. We have all lived, suffered, and died with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As the day of Resurrection was drawing closer, and even as we reached it, I couldn't help but notice what a role that media, and to an even greater extent, social media, had on my "Easter Spirit."

Although I know it is smart marketing, it really is neat how much religious-focused entertainment is offered around Holy Week/Passover/Easter. Hollywood and the Mad Men make sure that we are not left wanting when it comes to sitting down and watching something that will appeal to our spiritual growth.

Here were your choices that appeared on network, cable, and at



the movies: God's Not Dead, Passion of the Christ, Son of God, AD: The Bible Continues, Ten Commandments, and Killing Jesus. Dig through the cable viewings and there was much more to devour.

Concerning social media, I found myself...I hate to use the word...judging people on how they expressed their Easter wishes.

Not that I was judging negatively, but every time someone posted a picture that said "on our way to church" or a quote from scripture or hashtagged #HelsRisen, I couldn't help but, you know, *liking* that person more. Of thinking even better about that person than I already did having them on my friend list (we still keep our friends close and our enemies closer, right?).

The sad thing is that after the sun sets after shining upon that glorious empty tomb on Easter Sunday...its mostly over. Ratings giant AD: The Bible Continues will keep on showing...but that's it. Everything else is tucked away until next Holy Week.

Is this bad though? On one hand, people who know that stuff run this

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programming with "us" in mind, knowing we will watch it and view the commercials. Near Easter, it's like the proverbial "fish-in-a-barrel" to get "us" watching. On the other hand...think of the alternatives. "The Walking Dead" wanted no part of Easter Sunday and baseball waited until that night to start its season (late).

I know Christians are being targeted...but in this situation, it's not bad! We watch because our other Christian friends watch. And, as recent history shows, if you miss with scripture, we don't watch! That's why last year's "Exodus" and "Noah" flopped—who wants to see a religious movie if Hollywood messed with the religion part?!

Needless to say, the media has become a part of our walk with Christ. Most of the time, it is a distraction, but sometimes, the distraction is welcome and beneficial.

As consumers (and Christians!) keep your eyes peeled for this "new trend" of religious media. We are in this together—let's keep our eyes peeled and share what we watch—it can't hurt!

Fr. Jason

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Lenten Seniorate Retreat

The Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese held its annual Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 21st at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI.

There was a bit over fifty in total in attendance at the retreat, with St. Mary's sending 10 (including Fr. Jason).

Each priest of the Seniorate

gave a lecture and/or reflection on various topics, all



Above Left: Our fearless Senior. Above Middle: St. Mary's own won "Couple of the Retreat 2015" Above Right: Fr. Jason in action. Right:: Many of those gathered waiting with anticipation for the day's feast.

circling around the theme: How to be a faithful servant of God.

Fr. Raymond Drada (All Saints, Sterling Hts. MI) spoke about Creation, Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak (Holy Cross, Hamtramck, MI/Resurrection, Temperance MI) spoke about the Bible, Fr. Jason Soltysiak spoke about the Eucharist, and Fr. John Cramer (Our Savior, Dearborn Hts. MI) spoke about the Ten Commandments.

Although the Seniorate holds these retreats annually, it is also taking part of the PNCC Action Plan for a Year of Regeneration within the church, that each Seniorate should hold a Lenten Re-

treat. This is in response to the Future Direction Subcommittee as assigned at the 2014 General Synod.

Many thanks to the parishioners who made the trek from St. Mary's at Fr. Jason's urging as well as to those fantastic cooks at Resurrection Parish-the food was definitely part of the pitch to get people to attend!



Pierogi & Kielbasa Making

During March, the parish made pierogi on Saturday the 14th and kielbasa on Saturday the 28th in preparation for the Easter Season.

Both sessions were well-attended by eager-to-help parishioners and friends.

Much of the pierogi was sold at the Fish Fry and the kielbasa was flying off the shelves as Easter

approached, leaving a warm and garlicky trail.

As always, these events are possible by the efforts of our parishioners—thank you for continuing to keep these traditional fundraisers alive at St. Mary's.



Palm Sunday Activities

March 29 was a big day for most Catholics, as we celebrated our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

We celebrated the full Liturgy of the Palms, replete (for the first time, in most memories) the Scouring of the Cross. Palms were also blessed and distributed during the 11 am Polish Mass. An incredible bake sale was held between Holy Masses.

Many asked why the scourging was done/why they had never seen it before. In seminary, it was taught that it was almost 50/50 of PNC churches who did/didn't do it, per their own traditions.

The words are chanted three times "It is written, they shall strike the shepherd, and the

sheep of the flock will be scattered, but after I am resurrected, I will go before you to Galilee, there you shall see me, says the Lord."

"We" are the "they" in that scriptural statement. By our own sin, by our embarrassment, by our fleeting faith, we have hurt our Savior at some point...but as

He promises, we will indeed see Him again.

It is a violent-looking action, as the cross should be struck pretty darn hard. It also shows that change in tone the Palm Sunday Mass takes—from the glorious "Hosannas!" to that Passiontide petition: "Lord for us, your wounds were suffered. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us!"



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Just a few thoughts from your parish chair

I truly hope all of you enjoyed your Easter! It was wonderful seeing those of you in church that were able to attend from Palm Sunday, through Holy Week, and then at the triumphant Easter Resurrection Masses joyously celebrated by Fr. Jason. Those of you that were not able to be with us, we missed you! May the rest of this Easter season be blessed for all of us.

Fr. Jason asked me a couple months ago if I would like to contribute to the newsletter on a monthly basis by providing a page of, well, something. How do you say no to your Pastor (and not pay for it somewhere down the road)? In response to his request I will be offering a page of information, education, inspiration, humor, and maybe just useless (but fun) facts everyone should keep in the back of their minds to use just at that right moment in life. It's been a few years since I have used any creative writings skills I may, or may not, have. Actually since Bp. Stan, at that time Fr. Stan, came to St. Mary's and took over the creation of our monthly newsletters. But I'm willing to give it a try so.....

How many of these National Holidays do you know about and celebrate during the month of April? Here are *just a few*:

April 1 - April Fool's Day

Although not a "National" Holiday I was encouraged to include... Bishop Hodur's Birthday

April 2 - National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day

April 4 - National Walk Around Things Day

National Love Our Children Day (1st Saturday in April)

April 5 - National Caramel Day (I'm marking this one on my calendar!)

April 7 - National No Housework Day

April 11 - National Eight Track Tape Day (how many reading know what those are?)

National Pet Day

April 15 - We all know this one!

National Take a Wild Guess Day

April 16 - National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day

April 17 - National Bat Appreciation Day (and NOT the kind you play baseball with -creepy!)

April 20 - National Lima Bean Respect Day (hmm?)

April 23 - National Take a Chance Day

April 24 - National Pigs in a Blanket Day (This one means different things to different people: hotdogs in crescent rolls, sausage in pancakes, but we know them to be the BEST as the great Polish tradition of Golabki, or stuffed cabbage to those that just might not have the language down.)

I share the following recipe found in a cookbook I purchased from Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, New Hampshire several years ago. I wonder if the chef is a relation to anyone we know?

Golabki

1 1/2 lb. ground beef	melted salt pork or butter	1 clove minced garlic
2 lg. heads cabbage	1/2 lb. ground pork	celery salt
4 lg. onions, chopped	1 c. cooked rice	pepper

Remove core from cabbage and parboil in salted water until leaves are tender enough to roll. Separate leaves and set aside. While cabbage is boiling, sauté onions in salt pork or butter until golden. Add ground beef and pork, mix and continue cooking until beef is no longer pink.

In large bowl, mix together rice and meat mixture, adding garlic, salt, and pepper to taste. Place heaping tablespoon (or more) of mixture in cabbage leaf. Fold in sides and roll up. Place folded side down in roaster. Add about 1 cup of water in which cabbage was boiled. Top rolls with unused leaves, cover and bake at 325 for approximately 1 1/2 hours.

Optional: If desired, tomato sauce, V-8 juice, or tomato soup can be spread over cabbage rolls before baking in place of water.

From the kitchen of Emily Soltysiak

Thanks for reading!

elaine

Various Announcements

PolishFest

As announced last month, our Polish-Fest is scheduled to take place this July 9-12. It will follow some of the same format as last year, with enough tweaks and advertising to have a greater community impact. Keep your eyes here for more info in the future.

100th Anniversary Planning

A meeting was held on Tuesday, February 24th to begin planning for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of our Parish. Plans are beginning to take form for our October 10th celebration. Please make sure to mark the date on your calendar now. Be expected to be tapped on

the shoulder between now and then for various reasons (history, grunt work, any talent you may have) as we begin our preparations.

Applebee's Dining to Donate

St. Mary's has been approved to have the Applebee's location in Independence, OH to host a "Dining to Donate" day on Thursday, April 16, from 11 am-9pm. This means that if you bring in the flyers that will be passed out at church or emailed to the parishioners, 15% of your purchase will go right back to St. Mary's. It is an easy fundraiser—go out to dinner with friends and family and that portion of your bill will go directly back to St. Mary's. Please give flyers to any and everyone you know...or people

you don't know! For more info, please contact Natalie Soltysiak at the rectory or email her nesoltysiak@gmail.com.

Rummage Sale

The parish will be holding a short, one day rummage sale on Saturday, May 16. It is asked that if you have any goods that you would like to donate towards this fundraiser, to please start cobbling them together. You may place donated items on the stage.

Hygiene Kits

The Mission Team is asking for donations as hygiene kits are being put together once again. You may have seen the refrigerator reminders around - needed are new toothbrushes, combs, and washcloths, travel-sized toothpaste, shampoo, and soap, etc.

Diocesan Chrism Mass

The Diocesan Chrism Mass was held on Holy Tuesday at All Saints Cathedral in Park Ridge, IL.

The Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese was Celebrant of the Mass, with

present diocesan priests as concelebrants. We were also lucky enough to have two deacons and two clerics in attendance.

During the Mass of Chrism, the Oil of the Sick and Oil of the Catechumens are blessed and the Holy Chrism is consecrated at various junctions of the Mass.

Throughout history, this Mass would be celebrated on the morning of Maundy

Thursday, with the priests traveling back with their freshly-blessed oils to have them presented to the parish during the Holy Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist. Now, due to travel situations (as well as for making an easier Holy Week), this Mass takes place on Holy Tuesday.



Fish Fry 2015

On Friday, March 20, St. Mary's held a Lenten Fish Fry.

It had been a few years since one was held here, and the response from the community was

tremendous. All dinners were sold out before we reached our third hour.

The menu included 2 pieces of Guinness-battered Cod, cabbage & noodles, French fries,

applesauce or coleslaw, roll, drink, and dessert.

Many thanks to all who planned, worked, or patronized this fundraiser.

April Days of Note



- 2nd – Helen Wankowski
- 7th – Karen Barnes
- 7th – John Michalczyk
- 9th – Sheri Ference
- 16th – Megan Kasperczyk
- 17th – Robert Mondok
- 18th – Julie Arnold
- 18th – Madilyn Burger
- 19th – Natalie Kasperczyk
- 25th – Nick Sivik



- 1st – Tom & Karen Bedocs
- 28th – Zbigniew & Elizabeth Staranowski

Quick Announcements

Help is always needed for our monthly Food Ministry. On the first Wednesday of every month, a group of parishioners take the time out of their schedules to prepare a fresh, hot meal that is served from 4pm-6pm.

Our needs vary from month-to-month. Sometimes, we need help cooking the meal. Other times, it is the setting of the tables and preparation of the hall. Other times, serving and cleanup.

If you are at all interested in offering your time and ministry to this endeavor, please feel free to speak to Fr. Jason or to Dr. Jim Ploskonka. Thank you in advance!

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	Edward Basiewicz
Mary Ann Loschelder	June Zaun
Alison Jambor	
Laura Samelson	

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
Joanel 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 Dzurhoff	George Beggin
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
Gina Crosetti	Madilyn Perry
Elsa Vogl de Gomez	Joyce Dicken
Kim Blaha	John Clark Sr.
Tom Bowen	Greg Soucie

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

Shirley Paulus	Tony Mudrak
Gene Mora	Ted Jurczyk
	Polly Gajda

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY NEEDING HEALING

ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Lord, bring all service personnel safely home!!!

Bless them, O Lord.

The Easter Sequence

Sequences are used only three times during the liturgical year: Easter, Pentecost, and Corpus Christi. There used to be many, many more throughout the year. Here is what was read between the 2nd Reading and Alleluia on Easter:

**To the Paschal Victim
let Christians offer
a sacrifice of praise.
The Lamb redeemed the sheep.
Christ, sinless,
reconciled sinners to the Father.
Death and life were locked together
in a unique struggle.
Life's captain died;
now He reigns,
never more to die.
Tell us, Mary,
"What did you see on the way?"
"I saw the tomb
of the now living Christ.
I saw the glory of Christ, now risen.
I saw angels who gave witness;
the cloths too which once covered
head and limbs.
Christ my hope has arisen.
He will go before His own
into Galilee."
We know that Christ
has indeed risen from the dead.
Do you, conqueror and King,
have mercy on us.
Amen. Alleluia.**

