

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

May 2023

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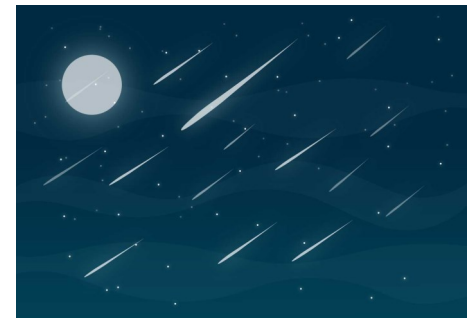
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years of Israelite wandering. I was stopped by the person who said “yeah yeah yeah...but it starts in winter and ends in summer every year.”

Tough to argue with! So far, the Easter season in Northeast Ohio has featured days that topped out in the upper 30's as well as days in the 80's. I get it!

In thinking about how long the season seems to be (with the overlapping month of Mary; May), I couldn't help but think of how short these 40 days must have felt to the followers of Jesus Christ. During those days following his crucifixion, they, like all of us who have lost someone at too young of an age, must have re-lived moments of those last 3 years together. The guilt Peter must have had in denying him three times; the pain the apostles felt in having one of their brothers, Judas the Iscariot, responsible for the death of Je-

sus; dealing with the dual-sided feeling of the anger at Judas and sadness at his death; reliving those words of Jesus when *he said this would happen*. Maybe they just wondered if the other part of that tri-repeated statement would come true; that He would be raised up to life. All these thoughts must have been colored by the pit-in-stomach feeling only the death of a loved one mercilessly provides.



Then He is alive! Scripture shows us He appeared a number of times to His followers across the 4 Gospels. As a kid (with a quick google search as my aid) I remember this incredible 3 week period in 1992—it was the Leonid meteor shower and a total lunar eclipse, both bright and visible in the southern Connecticut sky. I remember what a talking point it was beforehand at school and watching with my younger brother and my best friend from the neighborhood. Every time we saw a meteor, it was magic...and we couldn't wait to see the next one! We were apoplectic when it was time to go inside— we couldn't believe how late it

40 is a lot of Days!

As this May Newsletter is being printed and sent-out, we've entered the latter half of the Easter Season. In prepping this issue, I was reminded how someone once asked me why the Easter Season goes on for so long.

I started explaining that the 40 week period was reflective of the 40 days of Lent, how 40 is often thought of as a holy number, and a representation of the 40



The Resurrected Jesus appears and makes breakfast: John 21:9-14



The Resurrected Jesus appears before Mary Magdalene: John 20:11-18

Opening Article (Cont)



was! The Crystal Pepsi, Fruitopia, Pizza Hut Doritos, Kudos Bars and other defunct 1990's junk food made the night disappear even faster.

Imagine these events from the perspective of the followers of Jesus! Though scripture shows the appearances of the Glorified Body of the Resurrected Christ, imagine those who *weren't* there. Imag-



The Resurrected Jesus appears on the Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

ine those who were there for whom this *appearance* wasn't enough—they needed to see Him again!

Though scripture notes these appearances...there were more. Flavius Josephus, the great historian of the time, recorded the authenticity of these appearances. He had no horse in the race either—he was born a Jewish elite and defected to the Roman empire— if there was anyone whose life says he should've hid these facts, it was him! But he was committed to recording an honest historical account.

The appearances of Christ indeed appeared over the 40 days following the Resurrection. Our Sunday worship in this Year A of the Liturgical Cycle showed some of them. On the 2nd Sunday of Easter, we heard Jesus' appearance in the upper room and Thomas' doubt and subsequent statement of faith: "My Lord and My God" (John 20:19-31). On the 3rd Sunday of Easter, we heard of the "hearts burning within us" of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13

-35). On the Solemnity of the Ascension, the 40th Day, we will hear that final appearance before many followers (Matthew 28:16-20).

And then, Easter season still continues for 10 more days, until the Pentecost! Even though upwards of 500 disciples saw Jesus ascend to Heaven...well, why wouldn't they think He would show up again? After all, He died, was buried, and showed up a bunch of times after that! Certainly not making light of that, it simply feeds into how very fast those moments must have been, of hoping (for the first time or one more time) to catch a glimpse of the greatest passing meteor in human history, Jesus Christ.

While it might seem like quite a while for us (Seven Sundays!), it certainly would have flown by for the friends and followers of our Lord. For that reason...and many others...we spend a full allotment of days specifically celebrating the Resurrection of our Savior.

Fr. Jason

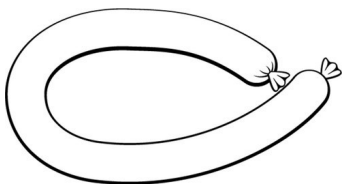
Kielbasa Making

The St. Mary's Choir continued a decades-long tradition of making fresh kielbasa on "Palm Saturday" April 1, the day before Palm Sunday.

Having culled together orders throughout the Lenten Season, hundreds of pounds of kielbasa were measured, cut, packaged, and prepped for pickup. Most members of the choir (and friends) showed up to make it an

efficient and effective prep. Thank you to all who ordered, for the leadership of our choir director/organist Chris Paulus, and

to everyone else involved. And, keep an eye out for the next fundraiser of the choir, Friday, May 19's 4:30-7pm Kielbasa dinner.



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Holy Week At St. Mary's and beyond April 2-8

Holy Week is the second week of Passiontide and the final week of the Lenten Season. As always, it began with our Palm Sunday Liturgy that preceded Holy Mass on Sunday, April 2.

It is a meaningful service, with extra chanting, blessings, procession, and others built in to make it so different than any other Sunday. We are also blessed to have helpers to proclaim the Gospel together, in multi-

ple parts with clergy & laypeople.

Holy Week revs up on Holy Tuesday with the Diocesan Chrism Mass. The clergy of the Western Diocese traveled to the See of the diocese, All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL.

We were to take part in not only the Chrism Mass, where the Holy Oils for the year are blessed and consecrated by all priests and our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, but in the elevation of Minor Orders.

Clerics Doug Scott & David Talaga were elevated to the Minor Order of Sub-Deacon. Sub-Deacon Talaga offered the Readings as part of his Order and Sub-Deacon Scott assisted

Bishop Rafalko at Mass as part of his Order. Congratulations indeed to those young men who are heeding the call of their Lord and Savior to work towards the Diaconate...and perhaps beyond!

The blessed Oils were presented to the parish by Mrs. Susan Boehnlein, parish chair, to begin Maundy Thursday Holy Mass.

At this Mass, we also took on the mandate of Christ to wash the feet of



Holy Week (con't)

those present (a half dozen) and recalled the moment of the Institution of the Eucharist. To conclude the liturgy we then processed the Sacrament to the Altar of Repose and ceremoniously stripped the altars.

Good Friday featured three distinct liturgies— at 11am, Fr. Gronn led the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified, a service that replicates Holy Mass in some ways but with hosts that were consecrated the night before; at 3pm, Stations of the Cross were walked and prayed upon by those in attendance; and at 7pm, Fr. Soltysiak, Fr. Ploskonka and Bill Zychowski chanted the Tenebrae, with Fr. Gronn leading Chuck Repede & Damion in the assistance. The church also remained open the entire day to allow for per-

sonal meditation before the true presence of Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament in the morning and early afternoon as well as before the statue of the crucified Christ after the 3pm Service.

Holy Saturday featured Basket Blessing

at Noon and the Holy Saturday Liturgy at 3pm, the most unique church service of the entire year. Holy Water was blessed, the new fire created, the Saints beckoned in Litany, and our promises of Baptism were renewed. The day closed with the final blessing of baskets & set up for Easter Sunday.



(Chicago, IL) Clergy gathering around Bp. Rafalko in prayer before the beginning of Chrism Mass & elevation of new Sub-Deacons

Easter Sunday at St. Mary's

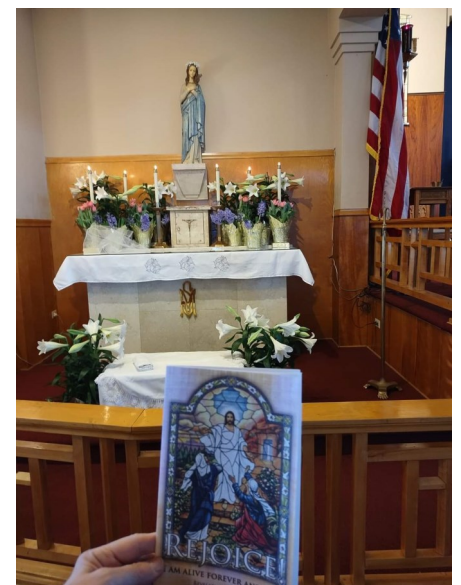
The Glorious day of our Lord's Resurrection was celebrated joyously, beginning at 7am sharp on Easter Sunday, April 9th .

The grave was empty (as you can see in the picture, with the pur-

posefully-discarded "tulle veil" remaining behind). The liturgy begins quietly and dark before the empty tomb, with the organ spiking for the first time since the conclusion of the Gloria on Holy Thursday when Fr. Jason intoned "Wesoly nam dzis dzien

nastal/Come rejoice the Lord is risen!".

The procession was full! The Symbols of the Resurrection were assembled to their appropriate place; (the Paschal Candle, the Cross of the Eternal Priesthood, and the Statue of the Resurrected Christ). We couldn't stop saying "Alleluia!" We shared a



Easter Sunday (con't)

breakfast afterwards, the kids found eggs, and many smiles and hugs were shared.

And we were blessed that the celebration continued! Holy Mass was held at 10am as well, as the cele-

bration from brunch after 1st Mass was receding. Worshippers were once again invited to come downstairs to share in Easter food prepared by Fr. Jason, Natalie, and a host of other parishioners. Many thanks to those who filled up the table with delicious food to be shared.

It was a day full of festivity that was memorable and a treat to be a part of. Let's keep on celebrating our Easter Joy right up until that intense and solemn day of Pentecost on May 28.



Easter

BRUNCH



Various Announcements

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – For the month of May, we use the 4th Prayer on pg. 88. For those who have asked recently – there is no requirement to change or rotate Eucharistic Prayers. Fr. Jason always enjoys rotating them on a monthly basis. For those who perhaps miss the Traditional Rite of the Mass, we do celebrate that Rite every scheduled Monday Morning Mass.

THANK YOU – A number of “thank-yous” to be handed out regarding these first early days of May: for the preparation of candy, dog treats, and flyers for the Polish Constitution Day parade; for the marchers and those who represented our parish at the parade; for the adornment of flowers upon Mary’s Altar in this month of May devoted to our dear patroness; to those who have done much work on our parish grounds (cleaning, edging, trimming, etc.). May God bless you reflective in the way you have blessed His parish!

EASTER – The Easter Season begins with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and lasts until the day of Pentecost, this year on May 28. 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 remain standing throughout the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, add extra “alleluias” throughout the liturgy, and more.

TRUNK SALE - The annual Spring Trunk (and Bake) Sale is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 20. This will feature a bake sale, lunch food on the grill (especially Steve’s special burgers), and many locals selling their wares. See the inside cover of the newsletter for the flyer.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS – will be celebrated each *Friday* at 7pm in May (May 12 & 26 in English, 19 in Polish). Consider attending these Eucharistic Devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother, patroness of our Parish. It is an opportunity to see one of the unique liturgies of the church: Litany, Exposition, & a small procession.

MEMORIAL DAY – Services for Memorial Day will take place Monday, May 29 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th at 10am. If inclement weather, services will be 10:15am at the church.

MEN’S RETREAT – The 6th Annual Men’s Retreat takes place June 15-18 at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA. We would love to have more men of St. Mary’s in attendance, as our retreat has been growing yearly. The theme this year is “Christ the Same”. The cost is \$125 per person and covers food, room, & board. See Fr. Jason if interested in attending.

HONOR YOUR FATHER – For continued support of the PNCC Clergy Pension Fund, names of those whom you choose to remember will be posted in the June issue of God’s Field-Rola Boza. Forms are available

near the parish mailboxes. Remember your father – lay or clergy!

KIELBASA DINNER – Sponsored by the choir takes place on Friday, May 19 from 4:30-7pm (right before Polish May Devotions). Mark your calendar today. It will be take-out or eat-in, for the low cost of \$10 per dinner. Dinner includes kielbasa, potato side, veggies, dessert. See the flyer contained in this newsletter.

YOUTH GATHERING – Takes place July 31-August 3 at Walnut Ridge Retreat Center in Morgantown, Indiana – just south of Indianapolis a little more than 5 hours away. Please see Fr. Jason if interested in attending this event.

SMA 100TH – St. Michael the Archangel PNCC celebrated its 120th Anniversary on Sunday, May 7. Fr. Jim Ploskonka attended on behalf of our parish and served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Thank you to Fr. Jim and congrats to the parish of St. Michael’s and its pastor, Very Rev. John Kowalczyk.

CLOSE OF SOCL – Closing exercises of the School of Christian Living takes place on Sunday, May 28, Pentecost Sunday (everyone wear red!). We will honor the students, teachers, and graduates of our parish this Sunday.

BOARD MEETING – The Parish Committee (Board) meeting for the month of May will take place preceding Marian Devotions on Friday, May 26 at 5:30pm.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary’s

May 7 – Ruth Dobrowolski of. by daughter Pattie Dotson

May 14 – Charlotte Hess of. by Tom Kugler (1st Anv.)

May 21 – Stanley & Yolanta Kwiatek of. by John Spilka

May 28 – John Paul Repko of. by daughter Cheryl Repko

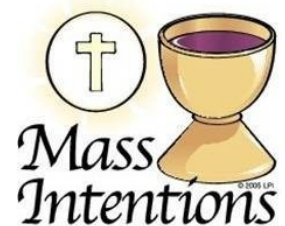
June 4 – A- Joan Spilka (70th Wedding Anv.) of. by husband John
B- Honoring Mark & Cathy Avondet (50th Wedding Anv.)

June 11 – Open Intention

June 18 – Open Intention

June 25 – Paul J. Repko Jr. of. by Cheryl Repko

Upcoming open dates: Aug. 6, 20; Sep. 10, 24; Oct. 15, 29; Dec. 10, 17, 24



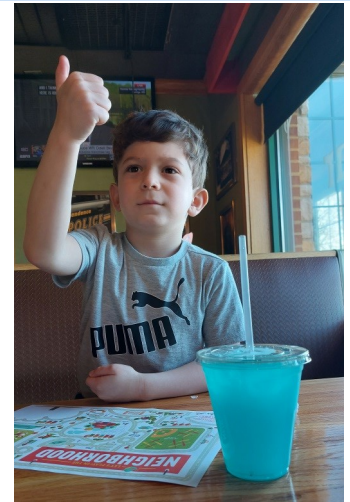
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Applebee's

A restaurant Fundraiser took place at Applebee's in Independence, OH on Thursday, April 13 from 11am-11pm. Our parish has held a restaurant fundraiser during Easter Week every year but 2020 going back 9 years now! We run under the assumption

that everyone is tired after a week of church prep, family prep, cooking, and more.

We only have one picture from the event, but it includes high praise for a memorable blue-raspberry lemonade! Thank you to all who ventured off to Independence for lunch or dinner on "Bright Thursday" 2023.



Other Sundays in the Easter Season

One neat little tradition of this parish of St. Mary's has been the Easter Potluck/Easter Dinner. In an effort to continue the celebratory joy of East-

er, we have had scheduled on the 8th Day, or 2nd Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday) a 10am Mass with a potluck to follow.



This year, we held it in the Fellowship Hall, saving a few steps up-and-down for attendees. The atmosphere was relaxed, with all sorts of hootin-and-hollerin' for Edyta's spinach & artichoke dip, the mini golabki, and Patty's disappearing meatballs!

Fr. Jason also adjusted the Sundays we hold the rite of asperges to the second Mass on Easter Sunday, the 4th and 7th Sunday of the Easter Season.

The words "wode widzialem" in Polish are representative of the renewal of baptism celebrated at the Holy Saturday liturgy. It is chock full of "alleluias", it gives a buffer for late-arrivals to Mass, is a good brisk stretch-of-the-legs for the celebrant, and a test of range for the choir!



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CHANCERY OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE
Polish National Catholic Church

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Park Ridge, IL 60068-2358

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Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese

April 26, 2023

May: Month of Mary

It is a centuries-old custom of Catholics to dedicate the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. May is always part of the Easter season, the fifty days we celebrate in the liturgy the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time also of awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. May as a Marian month fits well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary's great joy in her Son's victory over death and her presence with the apostles in the upper room, prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost day. In our pilgrimage of faith, we always walk with Mary. She is our model of faith and she helps us with her prayers to live by faith. She teaches us to believe as she believed. During this month, Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and adoration. This month, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance. Many churches and schools celebrate the crowning of Our Lady's figures, and this beautiful custom expresses our love for the Mother of God as our Queen. Through the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Holy Rosary we enter more deeply into the mysteries of Christ's life. All honor that we give to Mary leads to the adoration of God. Devotion to Mary fosters within us a faithful adherence to her Son. When we crown images of Mary, we are honoring her. In honoring Mary, we ultimately praise God for the grace He bestowed on her.

We all probably have our favorite images and our favorite devotions to Blessed Mary: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Perpetual Help, the Miraculous Medal, Blessed Mother of Czestochowa, etc. The many images and devotions express various aspects of Our Lady's vocation and mission. They help us to know the virtues of Mary and remind us to turn to her for her intercession.

I invite you to pray with Mary during this month. Let us commend her for our prayers for life, marriage, children, and families. Let us all place ourselves in Mary's arms to learn how to love God more fervently and love one another as her Son has loved us.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us and draw us closer to Christ, her Son!

Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry)Rafalko
Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese

HUNGRY?

Join Us!

United Choir
Kielbasa Dinner



Limited amount
of tickets!

Friday, May 19
4:30 - 7:00 PM

St. Mary's PNCC
5375 Broadview Rd.

DINNER - \$10

Kielbasa
Sauerkraut
Potatoes
Salad
Beverage
Dessert

*Eat in
or
Take out*

Call/Text: 216-232-8346

May Days of Note



May Birthdays

- 1st – Marianne Viers (Misiewicz)
- 1st – Bruce Toburen
- 2nd – Tom Bedocs
- 2nd – Pat Glatzer
- 5th – Jack Amburgey
- 9th – Demi (Paulus) Bengston
- 9th – Lolly Spilka
- 13th – Debbie Moritz
- 13th – Chuck Repede
- 13th – Maxwell Bengston
- 15th – George Ziefle
- 16th – Adrienne Michalczyk
- 18th – John Grmovsek
- 18th – Jim Matteson
- 22nd – Dolores DeLong
- 24th – Wendy Zychowski
- 29th – Andre Spanjol
- 30th – Jo Ann Long
- 30th – Audrey Spanjol



Happy Anniversary

May Anniversaries

Someone plan a May wedding!

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

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OH on Facebook or
subscribe to our
YouTube channel

"Let Me Love Your Jesus"

Virgin Mary, hear my prayer,
through the Holy Spirit,
you became the Mother of Jesus,
from the Holy Spirit,
may I too have Jesus.
Through the Holy Spirit,
your flesh conceived Jesus,
through the same Spirit,
may my soul receive Jesus.
Through the Holy Spirit,
you were able to know Jesus,
to possess Jesus
and to bring Him into the world.
Through the Holy Spirit,
may I too come to know your Jesus.
Imbued with the Spirit, Mary, you could say
"I am the handmaid of the Lord,
be it done unto me according to your word,"
in the Holy Spirit, lowly as I am,
let me proclaim the great truths about Jesus.
In the Spirit, you now adore Jesus as Lord
and look on Him as Son,
in the same Spirit, Mary,
let me love your Jesus.
Amen.

By Saint Ildephonsus (607-670AD)



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 |
| June Zaun | Sauna Smullen |
| Marty Bengela | Tom Putynski |
| Claire Hunek | Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Joseph Bischoff |
| David Micka | Jeff Lukas |
| Ed Pierson | George Bennett |
| Amy Dreger | Pattie Dotson |
| Elizabeth Starnawski | Jack Spilka |
| Elaine Repede | David Vaden |
| 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 |
| Penny Dennison | Tom Slomka |
| Wojciech Fedorowicz | Ben Soltis |
| Pam Tropiano | Linda Vect |
| Dennis and Sue Vect | Marcus Vaughn, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzuroff | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Doreen Stanley | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Wisniewski | Cathy Pieciak |
| Nan Cramer | Barb & Jim Lukas |
| Mike Pescitelli | Kathy Robertson |
| Mary Cawley | Richard & Edna Samelson |
| Jim Giles | Kathleen Sobocinski |
| Bill Zychowski | Loretta Baldwin |
| Donna Kidd | Paulette Lilli |
| Joseph Zubel | Margaret & Lew Heifner |
| Marilyn Girard | Courtney Austin |
| Stephanie Milla | Shannon Alberino |
| Jayden Pieciak | Joyce Zeigler |
| Jeremy Steinbrick | Katie Stallbaum |
| Marcia Klein | Kim Penney |
| Robert Owen Miller | Patrick Kmitt |
| Michael McGivern | Daniel Morgan |
| Dan Ewanko | Roseanne & George Ziefle |
| Phil Repko | |

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

