

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

July 2021

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Men's Retreat

*I thought it may be interesting to some if I share our experience from the men's retreat attended by 4 from our parish.

The Fourth Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial United YMSofR Men's Spiritual Retreat took place from Thursday afternoon, June 17 through lunch on Saturday, June 19. The event emanated from the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center on Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA. The retreat planning sub-committee met eight times over a 5 month span to get this event in order. This included schedule planning, adjusting for Covid protocols, theme, sessions, activities, giveaways, marketing, liturgy-planning, and more.

Fr. Jason Soltysiak (St. Mary's- Parma, OH) was our retreat master and head of our planning sub-committee. He was joined by: Fr. Carmen Bolock (St. Mary's- Duryea, PA), Fr. Jim Konicki (Holy Name of Jesus- Schenectady, NY), Dcn. Jim Ploskonka (Western Diocese), Andrew Humphreys (St. Adalbert's- Dickson City, PA), Dave Pecynski (Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral- Lancaster, NY), and Nick Kazinetz (United YMSofR President/Holy

Mother of Sorrows- Dupont, PA). The theme for this year's retreat was "How to Move On", based on St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4 verses 31-32: "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Our goal was to allow presenters to take on the task of addressing "moving on" from their personal experience with the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

Deacon Jim provided an orientation on Wednesday night that was sent to all participants via email, priming them for Thursday's opening session. Those who arrived Wednesday for planning & set-up were treated to a dinner of wings and pizza with a night that concluded with evening prayer, song, and a campfire.

Thursday's opening session allowed those in-person and online to mingle together. Fr. Jason provided an opening prayer and explanation of the theme while Andrew Humphreys provided a fun icebreaker game.

Whereas the vast majority of the group was digital last year, we rarely had more than a half-dozen to a dozen online. We did enjoy 21 men in-person for each session, including representatives from all four American PNCC Dioceses.

We shared our first retreat meal together afterward (we

shared quite a bit of food together!), a delicious Italian dinner of baked ziti—one with meat sauce, the other with sausage, peppers, and onions. After carb-ing up, we retreated back to the Retreat Center, where our first presentation began, titled "Home Alone", with Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk (St. Michael the Archangel- Cedar Lake, IN). Fr. Sr. spoke of the peaks as well as the valleys of being "home alone". He asked early how we felt at the beginning of the pandemic, making note of the words...versus how we feel now, versus how we feel with the knowledge of Christ's great proclamation that we are never alone: "I am with you always!" Thursday evening wound down with the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sac-



Fr. Jason's Article (con't)

rament, led by Fr. Jim Konicki. The Sacrament was processed to our chapel room, readied for adoration our entire retreat. After some time in adoration, we returned to the main hall for a virtual evening prayer led by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski (Holy Trinity Cathedral- Manchester, NH). The night concluded with a bonfire and some snacks.

Friday was our only full day of retreat, and began for many around the newly-installed coffee bar in the retreat center. There, pot-after-pot of coffee was consumed while the guys shared stories around the table. Upon the arrival of Bishop Bernard Nowicki (Saint Stanislaus Cathedral-Scranton, PA), we prepared for Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Nowicki. Fr. David Gaydos (Central Diocese) served as homilist, offering a few thought-provoking stories in his sermon. Breakfast followed Mass, featuring French toast sticks, fruit salad, sausage, and more.

Fr. Scott Lill (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel- Lilly, PA) virtually led our second session of the retreat, focusing on forgiveness. He provided tactics and avenues to go about to actually answer the spiritual question of our theme of "how to move on." At noon, Bishop Jerry Rafalko (All Saints Cathedral- Chicago, IL) joined our retreat to lead us in a guided Rosary prayer. Fr. Jason called upon Bishop John Mack (Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral-Lancaster, NY) to bless the rosaries that were given to those present as retreat gifts.

A lunch of pizza and salad was served, with our big military panel session following. Fr. Jim Konicki served as moderator of a panel featuring Polish National Catholics who had served in our nations military: Very Rev. Brigadier General Bob Pleczkowski (Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese), Major Garrett Grochowski, Fr. John Cramer (Holy Trinity-Kewanee, IL), and Fr. Bernie Laettner (Western Diocese). They each detailed their unique service as well as some of their personal experiences from their worst and best days. After each detailing an opening statement, they fielded questions from our attendees.

Upon the conclusion of our panel, we had a couple hours of free time before dinner. Some men threw beanbags around, some



hiked the grounds, some caught up on some zzz's, some drank coffee and shot the breeze, and some stopped by the chapel for adoration. The Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky (Prime Bishop- PNCC) honored us with his presence during this time. After this time of refreshment, we were treated to a cookout by the pool. Though it was a bit too chilly to hop in, we enjoyed a seemingly endless supply of hot dogs, cheeseburgers, sweet and hot sausage patties, corn on the cob, pasta salad, and more. Our cook for the week, Nick Kazinetz, was tested especially at this meal as "last call" turned out to be merely a suggestion...

Following Dinner, we enjoyed a Question and Answer session, led by Deacon Jim Ploskonka, featuring Fr. Dr. Henryk Wos (Our Saviour- Woonsocket, RI). Deacon Jim sat comfortably on an easy chair, while peppering Fr. Henryk with questions that served as a "get to know you" session. Fr. Henryk detailed his calling to vocations, his life as a "man in a house of females", and facets of his unique ministry. Upon conclusion of this fourth session, Prime Bishop Mikovsky led us in an Evening Prayer Service of remembrance & Litany of the Dead for our fallen brothers of the YMSofR. To close our evening, we had a little history lesson provided on Spojnia Farm while we munched on some cheese, kielbasa, chips, and other assorted bedtime snacks that we'd never eat that late at home.

Saturday morning began with the raising of the flag and some of morning prayer, prepared and led by Fr. Carmen Bolock.

Breakfast was served, and we returned for our fifth and final session, led by Prime Bishop Mikovsky. He provided a point of view on "moving on" during the pandemic- the information he was gathering from sources, how he was able to work with his brother bishops, the inclusive work of both presidential administrations throughout, and what influenced decisions he made on behalf of the church.

Upon the conclusion of this session, Fr. Jason celebrated Holy Mass of the Word of God, honoring Bishop Stanley Bilinski in his role of teaching homiletics in our church for so many years. Con-celebrants included Fr. Sr. Kowalczyk, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid (Holy Mother of Sorrows- Dupont, PA), Fr. Carmen Bolock, and Fr. Jim Konicki. Fr. Jason was assisted by Deacon Jim Ploskonka and Sub-Deacon Justin Daviult (Eastern Diocese). Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Bishop Mack were seated in sanctuary. Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak (St. Joseph's-Westfield, MA) served as homilist for Mass, detailing how whenever we remove the slights that are evident in our theme scripture (anger, bitterness, etc.), the Word of God can fill those gaps.

Concluding the service was the reposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament from our chapel to the tabernacle, led by Fr. Sr. Kowalczyk. With the blessing of Jesus, ever-present in the Sacrament, our retreat officially concluded, with a decadent "lunch of leftovers" served as men packed their vehicles and left in the early afternoon.

Many praises and thank-you's could be said for all who attended and provided leadership throughout the retreat- simply, it was a return to normalcy with the ability to have time away from home and unique opportunities of worship for many. We very much look forward to holding the 5th iteration of our retreat next June at Spojnia Farm.



PolishFest Meeting

The organizational meeting of the 2021 PolishFest took place on Wednesday evening, June 30 at 6pm.

The meeting served as a prep for our next, scheduled July 15. We discussed timeframes, activities, logistics, the lack of a carnival, and avenues for development and improvement. We invite everyone

(even if you missed the last meeting) to chip in and attend our next meeting. There will be plenty of information to follow.



Pierogi Making

Pierogi makers, assemble! On Saturday morning, June 26, our faithful pierogi team joined forces after the “peeling & planning” group put in the hours earlier in the week to start the production of our Polish delicacies for our summer fundraisers. Many thanks to all who came by to lend a hand. Props to our

quality control expert, pictured, who ate roughly 2% of our total production!



Parish Ministries Returning

The pandemic was a reminder of what a blessing it was that our parish has a full-time pastor, a retired priest who attends, and a deacon. It made assigning various ministries a little bit easier...but perhaps we waited a bit longer than we needed to with some!

The month of June saw the return of our lectors and collectors. Bob Samelson leads our Lector Ministry, scheduling the parish lectors and filling in for

absentees, and Greg Hodor leads the collectors, serving as a fill-in whenever possible too.

We are always looking for more lectors and more collectors—see Fr. Jason if you would be amenable to serving the Lord in this capacity.



Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi

Sunday, June 6 was the Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi on the Catholic Calendar. The Solemnity of Corpus Christi took place on Thursday, June 3, celebrated with Holy Mass.

Our parish of St. Mary's has embraced the Eucharistic Procession over the past few years, especially with the recent ability to process around the entirety of the exterior church complex.

We were blessed with a beautiful Sunday morning, and hearts were turned to the Lord as we brought Christ to the four corner altars, the four corners of the world. Fr. Jason, Fr. Greg, and Deacon Jim proclaimed the Gospel at each altar, while Christine Paulus led the choir in the Eucharistic Hymns that accompanied our procession.

May God continue to enliven our liturgy and worship! Thanks to the Love of God Sodality for assisting in the set-up and take-down of the temporary exterior altars.

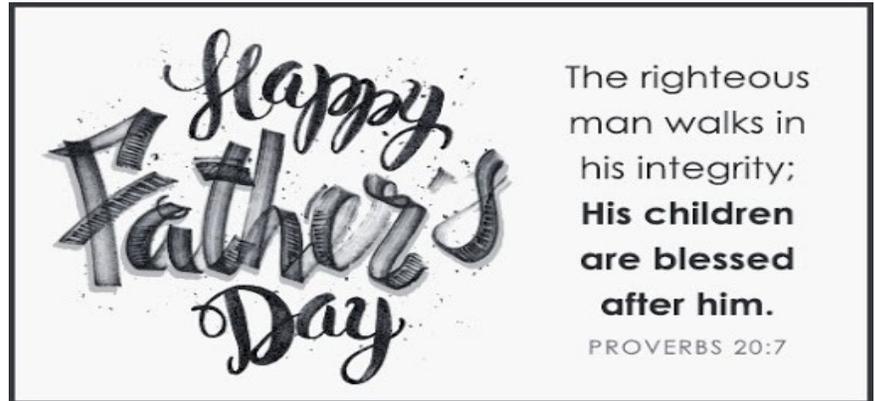


Fathers' Day at St. Mary's

The parish PTO sponsored the Fathers' Day coffee hour after Holy Mass on Fathers' Day, June 20.

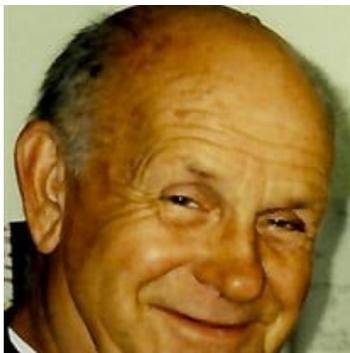
All men of the parish were treated to a to-go bag of goodies, which included a drink, bag of chips, and a candy bar.

God bless the fathers of our parish, as well as those who serve in any fatherly role. Thanks again to the St. Mary's PTO!



Sp. John Radon

John Radon, 87, of Valley City, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 26, 2021, a day after his 87th birthday.



He was born on June 25, 1934, in Cleveland, Ohio to Valentine and Eva Radon. John had a

long career as a truck repair mechanic, he worked at Chrysler and General Motors, from where he retired. He was a member of St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church in Parma. John was the epitome of a great husband, father, grandfather, brother, family man, friend and a true gentleman. He cherished spending time with his beloved family and friends, especially his grandchildren.

John is survived by his beloved wife of almost 50 years, Sharon "Shari" (Brew) Radon; sons, John (Marci) Radon, Jeffrey Radon, Jeremy (Melissa "Missy") Radon;

grandchildren, Dana, Jake, Zachary, Makenna, Taylor, Riley; great-grandchildren, Sahara, Ashley, Grady, Kai; and sister, Dorothy Cerny. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Stephen Radon; and sister, Wanda (Norbert, dec.) Kraushaar.

Funeral Rites were unique—visitation and a memorial car show at Carlson FH on Thursday, July 1. Friends were asked to showcase their American-made classic cars to honor John's life. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him!

Various Announcements

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER – Our next restaurant fundraiser takes place Monday, July 12th from 4-9pm at Swenson's, just a few miles south of the church at 7635 Broadview Road in Seven Hills. We were hoping to get a place for our summer fundraiser that had something cold to eat or drink...and milkshakes are king here! The parish receives 15% of every check and you can either show your phone or bring in a flyer (available near parish mailboxes).

EUCARISTIC PRAYER – for all of July, we use the 2nd Eucharistic Prayer on pg. 82, the Canon of St. Hippolytus.

2nd COLLECTION – Sacred Heart of Jesus PNCC in Minneapolis, MN burned down and at the encouragement of the bish-

ops, we will be holding a second collection to be offered to the parish on Sunday, July 18. We ask that, as the choir will offer an extended Post-Communion Hymn, the collectors will come around again for the benefit of our sister parish. A specific envelope will be available.

CONFIRMATION CLASS – after a bit of time away, we are looking to begin Confirmation Classes for those who have received 1st Communion and are ready to study for the Sacrament. Please let Fr. Jason know that your child is interested.

BASEMENT FLOOR – Work will begin shortly to repair the damages basement floor that is in the vestibule area.

GOLF TOURNAMENT – The upcoming United YMSofR Golf Tournament takes place Saturday, September 4 in the area

of Waymart, PA. Info is posted on Fr. Jason's office door.

PARISH MINISTRIES – is there anyone interested in becoming a lector or a collector? Fr. Jason is happy to work around anyone's schedule to train them appropriately. And, although all collectors are guys right now, one need not be male to pursue this!

DIOCESAN YOUTH GATHERING – takes place July 26-29 at Bellwether Farms in Wakeman, OH (only about 45 minutes from church!). The cost is low - \$100 per child, \$75 for additional family members. Please see Fr. Jason if you are interested in sending your child to the Youth Gathering.

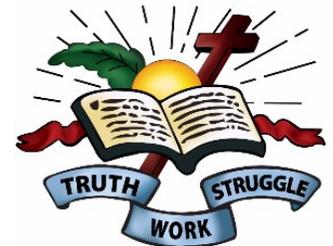
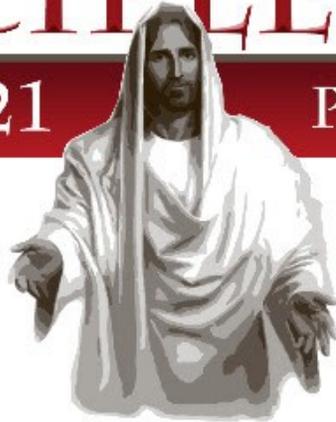
POLISHFEST MEETING – There will be a second meeting to discuss and plan the upcoming Polishfest (September 10-11) at 6pm on Thursday, July 15 in the Fellowship Hall.

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2021

PNCC



July 2021 – St. Paul: Early Life and Transformation

As we have reached the halfway point of Discipleship 2021 – in July we focused on St. Paul and his early life and transformation to a disciple of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

[Click Here to watch a short video message on St. Paul's early life and transformation by Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid](#) OR visit [PNCC Future Direction on Youtube](#))

Scriptures for Reflection

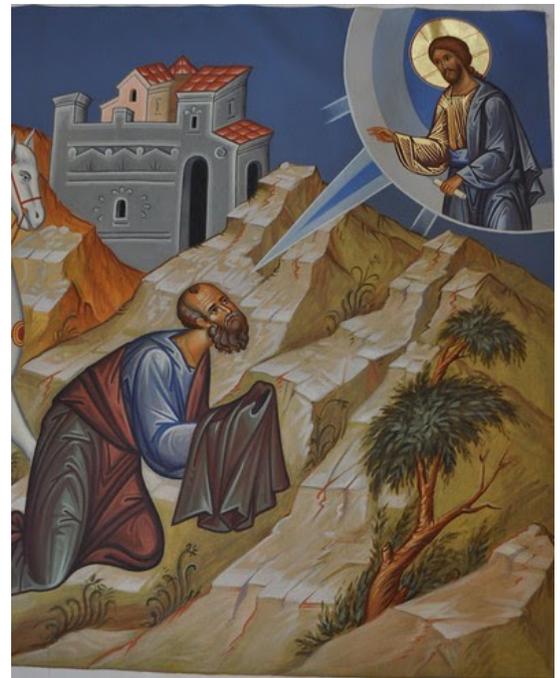
Acts 21:17-22:21; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33; 12:7-10

Reflection & Action Item:

St. Paul readily admits that he has “a past.” But we all do, don't we? With him, though, we are called by Jesus to turn our backs to our sinfulness and our faces toward Him that we might live in holiness and righteousness and, in doing so, lead others to Him as well. This will not always be easy for us, just as it was often a struggle for the Apostle. Yet, the love of Jesus compels us to keep trying. Each week this month, make some personal or family sacrifice (e.g., fasting from a meal, abstaining from a favorite food or recreational activity, etc.) that those who have not yet come to know Jesus as their Lord may come to see and embrace the salvation and peace that He alone offers.

Song Recommendation: “Keep on Hoping” by Riley Clemmons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASw-l8s-yzc>



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A Prayer for Courage

(taken from the PNCC Prayer Book)

Let us pray.

Almighty God speak to our hearts whenever courage fades.

Sustain us with an unyielding trust and steadfast faith,

so that we may not be afraid to profess or defend our faith in You.

May we stand with the same courage and perseverance of Your holy martyrs

as we face the challenges placed before us.

Renew us with Your unfailing love and fill us with hope in Your eternal purpose.

Enlighten us to look beyond the temporary things of this world to You,

the Source of all courage.

We ask this through Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PNCC Future Direction is on Facebook! Like us and follow our updates on Facebook too. If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at FutureDirection@pncc.org to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

May God bless you; may our Lord calm this storm and may our Blessed Mother intercede for us. Have a blessed day and be safe, careful, healthy and faithful as disciples!

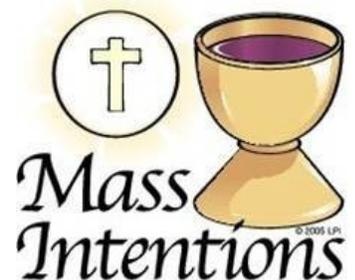
PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

- July 4 – Cory Ostrowski of. by the Roharik Family
- July 11 – Hanna Pryer of. by sp. Husband Len & family
- July 18 – Margaret Sobocinski of. by husband Clarence
- July 25 – Margaret Sobocinski of. by husband Clarence
- August 1 – Dale Tracy (birthday) of. by brother Randy Tracy
- August 8 – Casey & Wanda Putynski of. by daughter Carole D'Arcy
- August 15 – Open Intention
- August 22 – Hanna Pryer of. by husband sp. Len Pryer
- August 29 – Open Intention



***Next open 9am dates: August 15, 29, September 12, 26, October 24**

July Days of Note



July Birthdays

- 4th – Jolanta Misiewicz
- 16th – Chris Paulus
- 21st – Father Jason
- 22nd – Sara Long
- 24th – Jennifer LeMessina
- 25th – Martha Repede
- 25th – Chester Warzala
- 30th – Barbara Fesz



Happy Anniversary

July Anniversaries

- 14th — John & Andrea Grmovsek
- 15th — Nate & Amanda Ploskonka
- 20th — Michael & Carole D'Arcy
- 21st — Jim & Elaine Ploskonka
- 27th — Mike & Chris Paulus



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"The Summertime"

*Thank you Lord for the golden sun
That warms the earth from sky of blue
The rays that brightens
the summer's day
Speaks of the love that flows from you*

*The summertime of heat filled days
We thank you for the cooling breeze
And the shade that cools us down
Under the shadow of leaf topped trees*

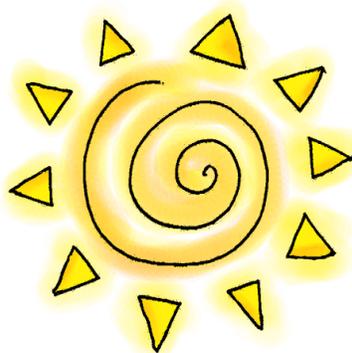
*We seek the shelter of your wings
Your breath upon us like a cooling wind
To ease the spirit and comfort the soul
And the rest you give to us who sinned*

*We thank you for the sparkling sea
To dive beneath its cooling waves
And Lord we thank you for the blood
Of your Saviour Son the One who saves*

*The summer days we thank you for
The joys of spending sun filled hours
Along the coast or countryside
Or in the garden viewing pretty flowers*

*For in the heart redeemed by you
Your Saviour Son brings a better clime
Your rays of love; the sunshine of grace
And for our souls
it is always summertime*

By Colin Moffett



Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Barbara Baranowski
Bill Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Julie L	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Julie L.
Marty Bengala	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Ralph Crispino
David Micka	Carol Hreha
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	David Vaden
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Wendy Andrzejewski
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Linda Marks	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Rhonda Smith
Emma Freshwater	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Tom Slomka
Gerri S.	Ben Soltis
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Kelly B	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Wisniewski	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Bp. John Mack
Janice Bielecki	Bp. John Swantek
Mary Cawley	Richard & Edna Samelson
Jim Giles	Tammy Teubl
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Anthony Grad	Azriel G.
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Shannon Alberino
Jayden Pieciak	Baby Layla
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Kim Penney
George & Linda Makovicka	Phil Symons
Barbara B.	Patrick Kmitt
Michael McGivern	Daniel Morgan
Barb & Jim Lukas	Renee Lukas
Mike Matis	Jeff Lukas
Ronald Tiffe	Mike Pescitelli
Al Piniecki	Bob Kaczmarek
Sophie Mae	

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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