

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

May 2025

Pastor: Rev. Jason H. Soltysiak
frjason82@gmail.com
Cell: 216-978-6645

Parish Chair: Mrs. Susan Boehnlein
sboehnlein66@gmail.com
Cell: (440) 781-7912



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
Like us on Facebook-St. Mary's Parma OH

St. Mary's hosts Western Diocesan Mass of Chrism

Each year in Catholic Dioceses across the world, priests flock to their bishop, the chief shepherd of the diocese, to con-celebrate the annual Mass of Chrism each Holy Tuesday. This Mass, originally designated for the morning of Holy Thursday in dioceses that are more geographically easy-to-traverse in, now takes place Tuesday of Holy Week.

In the Polish National Catholic Church, the bishop of each diocese makes the decision where the Mass of Chrism is to be held. Traditionally, it would held in the Cathedral of each diocese. This way, the bishop, who travels often, is allowed to remain closer to home. The Cathedral structures are usually larger and accommodating a sanctuary full of con-celebrating priests is usually a bit easier there.

The PNCC's Western Diocese, to which St. Mary's belongs, has seen the Mass of Chrism travel through the years. In this last decade, if it hasn't been held at

our Cathedral in Chicago, it has been held at parishes in Hamtramck, MI; South Chicago, IL; Cedar Lake, IN; South Bend, IN; and now, Parma, OH. At the behest of the bishop, this allows parishioners from each parish to experience this unique Mass on an occasional basis.

As our Western Diocese is still without a bishop, we were blessed to have the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, his grace the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky travel to Northeast Ohio for this Mass. While our diocese is ably served by our diocesan administrator, the Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski (St.

Mary's; South Bend, IN), Chrism Mass is one of those particular liturgies that, like the ordination of priest or deacon, *must* be performed by a consecrated Catholic bishop.

Mass on this Holy Tuesday, April 15, began with procession into the Church, where thethurifer preceded the crucifer, followed by the rest of the altar party. Prime Bishop, who served as chief celebrant and homilist, was the final clergy in procession, appropriately vested in miter and carrying his crosier. Upon entering the sanctuary, his miter and crosier were removed and Holy Mass began, with Deacon Douglas Scott (All Saints; Chicago, IL) assisting him at Mass. Parishioners Barb Bogzevitz (1st & 2nd Reading) and Marzena Krulik (Responsorial Psalm & Alleluia) served as lectors.

Besides the blessing of oils, this Mass also celebrates the Institution of the Priesthood – in fact, as the Prime Bishop finished imparting the Sacrament of the Word of God by his homily, he turned to



St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Opening Article (p. 2 of 3)

the priests in the sanctuary and offered a general renewal of commitment to priestly service. He then turned to the faithful and noted them as witnesses to hold the priests accountable in said ministry.

Mass continued, and the concelebrants, the priests of the diocese, encircled Prime Bishop for the beginning of the Canon of the Mass (the Eucharistic Prayer). Then, right before the Minor Elevation, Prime Bishop descended to the prepared table of oils and offered his blessing on the "OI" (*oleum infirmorum*), Oil of the Sick or Oil of the Infirm. This oil is used specifically in the Sacrament of Anointing (of the sick).

Once the priests and Prime Bishop received Communion together, the faithful received as well. The sacrament was reserved, the sacred vessels were abluted (cleaned), and then Prime Bishop descended to the table of blessing again. First, he blessed the balsam, which would be added to the oil to make the "SC" (*sanctum chrisma*) or Sacred Chrism. He then breathed 3 crosses upon it, which each diocesan priest individually approached and repeated. St. Hippolytus of the 3rd century referred to this oil as the "oil of thanksgiving", used to anoint the crown of the head of one baptized, at confirmation, to create baptismal water, or



Prime Bishop ascended the altar and Mass concluded shortly, with his episcopal blessing and the dismissal offered by the deacon. Fr. Jason Soltysiak, (St. Mary's; Parma, OH) offered a few closing



words and introduced each clergyman who was in attendance. Besides those already mentioned, those in attendance as concelebrants were: Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski (Administrator of the Western

Diocese), Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak (Administrative Senior; Northeast Seniorate), Rev. Greg Gronn (retired), Rev. Henryk Galas (Our Savior; Dearborn Hts, MI), Rev. Jose Rojas (San Juan Bautista; Chicago, IL), Rev. Nazario Salas (SS Cyril & Methodius; Chicago, IL) and Rev. Mariusz Zochowski (St. Hedwig; Chicago, IL).

MC's, or Masters of Ceremony of the liturgy were Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Administrative Senior; Central Seniorate), Rev. David Rowinski (All Saints; Chicago, IL) and Rev. Jim Ploskonka (All Saints; Sterling Hts, MI). The clergy processed out of church after the final hymn, returning to take a few pictures



St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Opening Article (p. 3 of 3)

before returning to un-vest from Holy Mass.

A dinner was served shortly after the Mass of Chrism, with pots of soup homemade by parishioners of St. Mary's accompanied by home-baked bread and some bakery breads as well. Desserts delicately awaited each diner at the table so they did not have to get up again once they retrieved his or her desired main course.

St. Mary's was proud to serve as host of the Diocesan Mass of Chrism for the very first time. Thank you to our Prime Bishop for traveling to be with us and serving as celebrant. Many thanks to the parishioners who

excitedly prepared to host this unique event; from cooking to purchasing to prepping to decorating to welcoming to worshipping to singing to dining and to cleaning.

As we were prompted before our celebration of Mass: "May the blessing of these Holy Oils remind us of Christ's love for us, shown in visible signs. May it also remind us that all of us have a share in Christ's work, as we care for the sick, love our children, and try to bring them and others to know and love our Lord. May we, who are strengthened by these Holy Oils guide and prepare others for a life of loving and serving the Lord as the holy people of God, members of the Church."



Monthly Mission Workshop

On Tuesday, April 1, members and friends of the Mission Team met in the Fellowship Hall for the monthly Mission workshop. With Easter just weeks away, the team worked to create 108 crosses to be used as tray favors for residents at a nursing home. Martha

Repede, parishioner and Mission Team member, is a nurse at this facility and brought them in for a little Easter joy. Thank you to all who spent this prayerful and important time together to raise the dignity of our brothers and sisters!



St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Liturgy Meetings

The National Liturgical Commission of the Polish National Catholic Church meets bi-annually and as needed. The most recent meetings took place in the Office of the Prime Bishop as well as via Zoom from Tuesday-Wednesday, April 8 & 9. Fr. Jason attended via



Zoom and the liturgical work of the greater PNCC was prayerfully addressed and deliberated.

Friday Evening Lenten Devotions

Each Friday during Lent, devotions were prayed in the evening, alternating between three different settings of the Stations of the Cross

and the three settings of the Bitter Lamentations. Each Friday evening for 6 weeks, a sermon was preached on the "characters of the Passion of our Lord",

with each person or people chosen and expounded upon from that evening's worship.

Palm Sunday Weekend

St. Mary's Choir (and friends) came together on "Palm Saturday" once again to produce and package its famous fresh kielbasa, just in time for Easter. Orders were filled throughout the Lenten Season and Mike Paulus (the subject of so many of our prayers!) and his loud voice echoed the orders to be completed. Workers enjoyed the camaraderie, as always.

Preparations for Palm Sunday were also going on as well, with Bernadette (of our Friday night Polish School) arranging a beautiful display for the Palm Sunday procession. The church was arranged and ready for the beginning of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday began with the blessing of

palms and the traditional procession. It is always a stark moment when the doors are "knocked" on three times before the procession concludes, preceding Holy Mass. St. Luke's Passion account was used in our recitation of the Passion, with parishioners from all sections of the church (choir, sanctuary, each of the 4 pew sections) securing a "part" and offering their words. It was a blessed start to the holiest of weeks.



St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Holy Triduum and Easter 2025

The Lenten Season gloriously culminates with the Holy Triduum and Easter each year. While St. Mary's was proud to host the Western Diocesan Mass of Chrism, everything this holy season indeed crescendos with the Triduum and Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday brought about the official reception of the Holy Oils blessed by the Prime Bishop & the clergy of the diocese just days prior. Holy Mass is quite eventful, as it features the "belled" Gloria, where every bell in church is rang until the conclusion of the Gloria—it is at its conclusion that bells are silenced until the Easter morning call of "Come Rejoice the Lord is Risen".

Holy Mass continued a capella as well as solemnly. The Mandatum was heeded in the washing of feet and after Communion was distributed, the reserved Body of Christ was reposed to the side altar, signifying Christ's arrest and being taken away from his disciples. The altars were then stripped at the recitation of psalms.

Good Friday worship began with the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified at 11am. This is the main service of Good Friday, and the only one required by the Church as part of the Holy Triduum. The Passion according to John is proclaimed, the Cross of Veneration is revealed, Intercessions are read and the liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified is held, with Communion consecrated at the previous night's Maundy Thursday's



St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Holy Triduum & Easter 2025 (p. 2 of 3)

Mass distributed to the faithful under one species, the Body of Christ.

The 3pm Service featured the Stations of the Cross and the symbolic entombment of the crucified Christ, coinciding with the final Station.

Tenebrae was celebrated at 7pm, with Bill Zychowski and Fr. Jason leading the chant as Fr. Greg, Nicholas, and Chuck led the liturgy.

Holy Saturday featured a noontime Blessing of Easter Food and the 3pm Easter Vigil Liturgy. There, new fire, the Paschal Candle, Holy Water, and Baptismal Water were blessed as the faithful also renewed the vows made at baptism. The Litany of Saints was chanted and then Easter Food was blessed once again.

Easter Sunday Resurrection Mass began joyfully at 7am with the unveiling of the empty tomb and the procession to the four corners. The choir sang beautifully, their selections well-prepared and rehearsed during Lent. The altar servers served reverently and accurately. The faithful were, simply, happy to be celebrating our Lord's Resurrection! Procession concluded with the re-staging of the 3 symbols of the Resurrection: the statue of the Resurrected Christ, the Paschal Candle, and the cross of the Eternal Priesthood.

A delicious picnic/
Easter themed brunch



St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Holy Triduum and Easter 2025 (p. 3 of 3)

followed Mass— thank you to the mother-daughter duo of Rose Kazinetz and Natalie Soltysiak for the coordination of this. There was plenty put aside for the faithful attending the 10am Mass to enjoy as well. The children (and children-at-heart) were thrilled to see that the Easter Bunny had visited, with an egg hunt taking place after everyone got a bite to eat.

10am Mass began with the Easter Asperges in the Polish Language, with the joys of Easter and the Gospel of the empty tomb following. Again, the faithful were invited to share their Easter joy and a bite together in the Fellowship Hall after Mass.



Property Clean-Up Day

Though it was cold and the clouds were threatening, no threats were too intimidating for those brave men and women, rakes-and-shovels-in-hand, ready to work on a Saturday morning

to glorify their Lord and God!

Donuts and coffee greeted volunteers on Saturday, April 26. After a battle plan was devised by action leader Cathy Avondet, groups split apart to all sides of the church; trimming, digging, pulling, raking, shoveling, cleaning, and bagging. A hard-

working group worked a good 2.5 hours, earning a lunch of pizza and salad afterwards. All the goals designed by Cathy were met, and the property's spring cleaning was complete. Appreciation to all who lent a hand!



St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Second Sunday of Easter

The second Sunday of Easter was celebrated joyfully with a 10am Holy Mass and an Easter Potluck that followed. This post-Easter potluck has become a staple over the last decade at St. Mary's, always taking place during the Easter Season.

At Mass, Fr. Jason preached on the continuing and forever power of the Breath of God. Afterward, attendees were invited to our hall for a potluck featuring Easter Eggs, dips, salads, meatballs, pancakes, desserts, coffee, cabbage, and more. Whether you were in the mood for breakfast or lunch, your taste buds were covered!

The potluck also featured a prize given at random to donors for the Lenten "skip a night out" fundraiser.

Congrats to Carmen and Ramon! Also, numbers were pulled for each of the baskets that were on display throughout the Lenten season. Congrats to the winners, and appreciation for all support to our parish.



Sp. Greg Hodor

GREGORY J. HODOR, age 72, Loving son of the late John and Sonya (nee Suley) Hodor. Preceded in death by his sisters, Veronica Babic and Deborah Hodor. Survived by his nieces and nephew - Lisa Arndt, Jeffrey Babic (Lynne Miller), Michelle Smith (Jeff), Jennifer Murphy (Robert) and Gretchen Fullard (Paul); great nieces and nephews - Abbey, Lenora, Jeremy, Patrick, Madalyn, Emily, Wyatt, Kara, Samantha, and Julia; and great great nieces - Nova, Addison, and Sybil.

Greg was a devoted member of St. Mary

Polish National Catholic Church where he could always be found as an event volunteer. He could also be counted on to participate in every single Mass, in any capacity needed. He also served over a decade on the Parish Committee. Greg had a very strong bond to his Polish heritage and was very proud to share his knowledge.

Greg passed away April 16, 2025 and his Funeral Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday, April 21 at St. Mary Polish National Catholic Church, with Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Pastor, as celebrant and homilist and Rev. Jim Ploskonka in sanctuary. Interment was at the SHOJ cemetery on W. 54th St.



St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Various Announcements

REMINDER! – Just a kind reminder that the few minutes before Holy Mass are meaningful to many parishioners to prepare for the liturgy and perhaps, to take advantage of the examination of conscience that is in the first few pages of the Mass Book. While it is wonderful to share a smile and conversation with our Christian (and pew!) neighbors- a reminder to reign it in a bit until, perhaps, after Mass at coffee hour.

FR. JIM– Continues celebrating 10am Mass on Thursdays as well as leading the St. Mary's Food Ministry Team's weekly meals on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you, Fr. Jim!

FAVORITE HYMN? – Do you have a favorite hymn, be it from another church, radio, or wherever that you would like the choir to consider learning? The choir wants to know your favorites! Drop a note to our Choir Director Chris so we can try new things.

HOLY MASS – for all of May, we use the 3rd Eucharistic Prayer, the Canon of St. Basil, on p. 84.

SAVE THE DATES! – We also received information on the Mission and Evangelism Conference & Workshop that is to be held at St. Francis of Assisi PNCC in Denver, CO May 30-June 1. The Diocesan Youth Gathering takes place July

21-24 in southern Indiana.

BOWLING EVENT - Attendees (so far) of the 2025 PNCC Bowling event from our League are Fr. Jason, Karen & Vince Colwell, Fr. Jim & Elaine Ploskonka.

PRIESTLY ORDINATION – Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Deacon Sean Dodd takes place at 10am at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. This event will be livestreamed if interested, but please make sure to keep soon-to-be Father Sean's ministry in your prayers.

EASTER – The Easter Season begins with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days, until the day of Pentecost, this year on June 8. 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 Canon/Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, as we add extra "alleluias" throughout the liturgy, and as our symbols of the Resurrection stand out in our church proper.

TRUNK SALE - The annual Spring Trunk (and Bake) Sale is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 31. This will feature a bake sale, lunch food on the grill (especially Steve's special burgers), and many locals selling their wares. Flyers will be available shortly

DIALOGUE MEETINGS – Fr. Jason will once again be attending the PNCC-RC Dialogue meetings this coming month, this time in Scranton, PA. 2025 marks the 40th year of dialogue between the two denominations – please pray for continued blessings and progress.

MEN'S RETREAT – The 8th Men's Retreat takes place June 18-21 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 "For us Men, and for our Salvation". The cost is \$150 per person, transportation provided. See Fr. Jason if interested.

MEMORIAL DAY – Services for Memorial Day will take place at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th at 10am on May 26. If the weather is inclement, services will be 10:15am at St. Mary's.

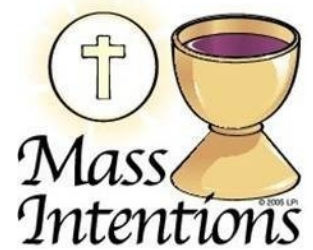
MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Began May 7th. They will be celebrated in English (May 7 & 21) & Polish (May 16 & 30). Consider attending these Eucharistic Devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother, patroness of our Parish. It is an opportunity to see one of the unique liturgies of the church: Litany, Exposition, & a small procession.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

May 4 – Charlotte Hess of. by son Tom & Cherie Kugler
 May 11 – Ruth Dobrowolski of. by daughter Pattie Dotson
 May 18 – Stanley & Yolanta Kwiatek of. by John Spilka
 May 25– John Paul Repko of. by Cheryl Repko

June 1– Joan Spilka (wedding anv.) of. by husband John
 June 8 – Gregory Alfonzo of. by the Torres family
 June 15 – Len Pryer of. by daughter Evonne
 June 22– Adeline Karabowicz of. by daughter Trish
 June 29– Elaine Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe

Open dates for Sunday Mass intentions for the rest of the year are Jul. 20; Aug. 17; Sep. 14, 28, Oct. 19, Nov 2, 30 Please contact Fr. Jason to schedule.



May Days of Note



May Birthdays

1st	— Marianne Viers (Misiewicz)
1st	— Bruce Toburen
2nd	— Tom Bedocs
2nd	— Pat Glatzer
5th	— Jack Amburgey
6th	— Carlos Cancel
9th	— Demi (Paulus) Bengston
9th	— Lolly Spilka
12th	— Maxwell Bengston
13th	— Debbie Moritz
13th	— Chuck Repede
15th	— George Ziefle
16th	— Adrienne Michalczyk
18th	— John Grmovsek
18th	— Jim Matteson
18th	— Ramon Torres
22nd	— Dolores DeLong
24th	— Wendy Zychowski
28th	— Roseanne Ziefle
29th	— Andre Spanjol
30th	— Jo Ann Long
30th	— Audrey Spanjol



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 :-)

"The May Magnificat"

May is Mary's month, and I
Muse at that and wonder why:
Her feasts follow reason,
Dated due to season—

Candlemas, Lady Day;
But the Lady Month, May,
Why fasten that upon her,
With a feasting in her honour?

Is it only its being brighter
Than the most are must delight her?
Is it opportunist
And flowers finds soonest?

Ask of her, the mighty mother:
Her reply puts this other
Question: What is Spring?—
Growth in every thing—

Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,
Grass and greenworld all together;
Star-eyed strawberry-breasted
Throstle above her nested

Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within;
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell.

All things rising, all things sizing
Mary sees, sympathising
With that world of good,
Nature's motherhood.

Their magnifying of each its kind
With delight calls to mind
How she did in her stored
Magnify the Lord.

Well but there was more than this:
Spring's universal bliss
Much, had much to say
To offering Mary May.

When drop-of-blood-and-foam-dapple
Bloom lights the orchard-apple
And thicket and thorp are merry
With silver-surfed cherry

And azuring-over greybell makes
Wood banks and brakes wash wet like lakes
And magic cuckoo call
Caps, clears, and clinches all—

This ecstasy all through mothering earth
Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth
To remember and exultation
In God who was her salvation.

Fr. Gerard Manley Hopkins (d. 1889)

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Bob Kaczmarek
Bill Kastak	Gail Perz
George Makovicka	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Patrick Kmitt
Dee Mora	Shauna Smullen
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Jeff Parady	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Mike Paulus
Al & Donna Micka	Ron Ference
Ed Pierson	George Bennett
Florence Nemkovich	Pattie Dotson
Nicole McGivern	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	David Vaden
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Michael McGivern
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	Tom Pietka
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzurowf	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Doreen Stanley	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Wisniewski	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Jim Lukas
Sage McLane	Dave Tuma
Phil Repko	Shyanna Tiller
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
Sam Bass	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Kim Penney
Laurie Slominski	Amanda Monyak
Roseanne & George Ziefle	Judy Alexin
Connie Benko	Joe Litto
Matthew Penney	Diane Ellis
Josephine Ference	Pete James

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.



Subscribe to our

You Tube Channel

Visit us online at

www.stmaryspncc.org

like St. Mary's in Parma, OH
on Facebook or subscribe to
our YouTube channel