

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

December 2020

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Diving into Advent

The Season of Advent brings about many thoughts each year- I always think back to the wonderment of a younger me counting down the days to Christmas, I recall the competition to be the kid who lit the "pink candle", and it inevitably leads me down a wormhole of information.

Since Advent is dual-focused on the coming Christ in the Incarnation as well as in His heralded Second Coming...there is too much to look at in too-short of time. Advent can be anywhere between 21.5 days, like it was in 2017 or the full 28 days, with Christmas Day on a Sunday, like it will be in 2022.

What threw me into the wormhole was actually a sermon preached on a Sunday morning. Though neither Father Greg or Deacon Jim preaches a lot, when the occasion

arises I, like you all, enjoy hearing a different voice and a different point of view.

Deacon Jim preached on the Solemnity of Christ the King and stylistically, is much different than me. This is a very good thing! His words that day were excellent, meaningful, and well-researched and prayed-over. The Gospel that day (Matthew 25:31-46) is a double-edged sword, and gives the proclaimer a real sense of power in repeating Jesus' words... Take some time to read it/google and check his sermon on our archived Mass on Youtube from that Sunday, November 22nd.

He tied together the Book of Ezekiel, Psalm 23, and the Book of Revelation to show how Christ leads: as a Good Shepherd, as one desires those who

run hot & cold, and ultimately, who fall in order of the Gospel, which included those who feed, visit, and minister-to the least of all. He brought alive the fact that what we do to His creation on earth, we do to Him: good and bad.

I chewed on that for awhile, even though I've heard it before, read it before, had it preached to me before. But if anything, God works in mysterious ways and, as a 3rd week of Eschatological (end times) theological teaching....well, it made me introspective.

Once the church calendar reset and became "Year B" on the First Sunday of Advent, the Gospel on Sunday switched to predominantly Mark...but boy, the words of the last few weeks were stuck in my craw. I stumbled over my words a few weeks ago preaching, wanting to quote the "Baader-Meinhof Phenomenon",



Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

which is the idea that once you learn something, it starts popping up "everywhere."

Well, no matter what scripture I've been reading, it is colored by that end-time theology. Not that I am scared by it or dismissive of it...simply I am intrigued how it seems to be reaching out to me. Now, there are teachings of scripture that can be construed to mean a number of things, especially if prefaced by another reading of a certain theme...and some Advent scripture doubles in meaning...but everything I touched seemingly reminded me of the world's mortality.

As Advent moves along, it takes a decidedly clear jump to "Baby Jesus Preparation". While the vast majority of any Gospel is a

build-up towards Christ's Death and Resurrection, there really isn't much build-up towards Christ's Incarnation, his birth. What we experience in 14 or so days of scripture before Christmas is pretty much everything. It is one of the reasons we know the major players in the Christmas narrative so well- they only appear in Matthew and Luke, and Jesus is an adult by the beginning of Chapter 3 in both Matthew (28 chapters) and Luke's (24 chapters) Gospel.

I hope you make scripture part of your Advent Preparation. It is a



season of anticipation and patience, not as penitent as the Lenten Season. An easy resource for the assigned daily readings of the Western Church is bible.usccb.org, which allows anyone to access and see scripture progress in the seasons of the church. May prayer enlighten your way through scripture...and maybe a sermon here or there will color how that scripture will feel for you.

Fr. Jason

Remember When?

A Picture from a confirmation at St. Mary's. (Prime) Bishop Francis Rowinski is imparting the Sacrament, assisted by two priests, vested in tunic & dalmatic.

Note the lack of carpet leading to the Sanctuary and the palm trees!

Probably from the 1970's or so...a neat look into the past!

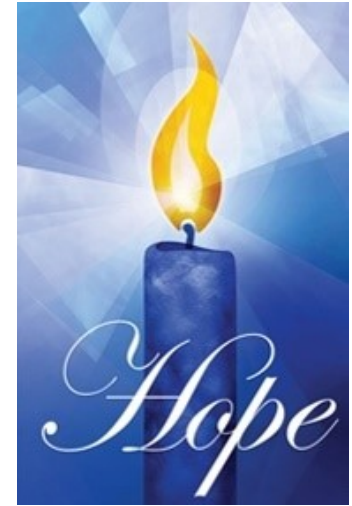


Season of Advent

The Season of Advent began on Sunday, November 29. Our festive autumn banners were taken down, as were floral and autumn-themed displays, making way for a couple Advent Banners and, of course, the



Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath was blessed to open 9am Holy Mass that day by Fr. Jason. Deacon Jim and our two acolytes assisted the blessing, with Mr. Damion providing the reading on "Hope", the first Sunday of Advent's theme.



To-Go Coffee Hour

Please continue to support our to-go coffee hours at church. They are sponsored by the Love of God Sodality, and they support the upkeep of much of what comes in and out of our beautiful sanctuary at church. Even during the pandemic, they provided funds to upkeep some of our sacred vessels. Included in the regilding of

vessels was a chalice and an intinctorium, which will be used once we provide Holy Communion in both species (Body and Blood) once we get the "all clear" from the Big Guy above and all sorts of people who make that decision below!



Operation: Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child- Thank you to everyone who pitched in and donated towards /created a Christmas Box this year. We appreciate the efforts of Evonne Pryor, who has continually led this effort. She

dropped off the 36 boxes at the area's pick-up point, Royal Redeemer. A small "boxing party" was held, with a collection of items packed to the appropriate age and gender box.



Wypominki Remembrances

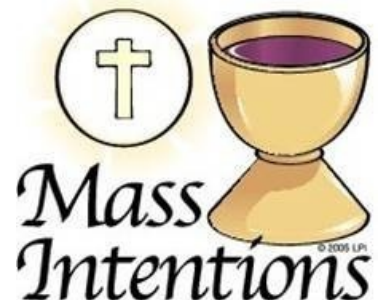
St. Mary's has a custom that is a little bit different than many other parishes, but in a good way. Wypominki prayers, or prayers for the dead, are said before each Mass in November (not including Advent Sundays, if they fall in November), giving a month's devotion to prayers for the dead. This allows someone who might've been away or has alternating availability to attend Sunday Mass the opportunity to hear

their beloved prayed for publicly. Our All Souls service takes place the weekend closest to All Souls Day, November 2. Unfortunately, this year the heavens opened and rained down upon the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on West 54th Street, keeping our remembrance service indoors at St. Mary's. Originally scheduled for noon on Sunday,

November 1st, it took place at 12:20pm, giving anyone who might've gone to the cemetery first time to attend in-person.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

- December 6– Jack & Stella White of. by daughter Patty
- December 13– Joan Kastak of. by neighbor Ms. Lash
- December 20– Josephine Blatnik of. by the family (birthday in Heaven)
- December 27– *Open Intention*
- January 3- *Open Intention*
- January 10- *Open Intention*
- January 17- *Open Intention*
- January 24- Hanna Pryer of. by husband Len & family
- January 31- *Open Intention*





ST. MARY'S

TAKE HOME WIGILIA

Let's celebrate this holiday season
with a "we make you take" dinner!

MENU:

SINGLE MEAL: \$ 12.00	POTATO PIEROGI (3)
FAMILY MEAL(4): \$ 40.00	MUSHROOM SOUP
QUART SOUP: \$ 8.00	PEAS & SAUERKRAUT
A DOZEN PIEROGI: \$ 7.00	OPLATKI
CABBAGE NOODLE QUART: \$ 5.00	CABBAGE & NOODLES
	GREEN BEANS WITH ONIONS
	PICKLED BEETS
	KOLACZKI

DEC. 23 • PICK UP TIME: 3 - 7PM

5375 BROADVIEW RD, PARMA, OH 44134

PRE-ORDERS ONLY EMAIL:
YMSOFR29@GMAIL.COM

From the Parish Chair...

Service to Our Parish

Our annual Election of Officers Meeting took place on Sunday December 6th. Given the continued need to remain socially distant and the number of parishioners that are not yet comfortable coming to church, attendance was low but the meeting was conducted. Thank you to those who did attend. The majority of parishioners that offered their service in 2020 have returned to their roles from board members to auditors. Thank you for your desire to continue your work for the parish. We welcomed one new board member (Nancy Roharik) and two new seniorate delegates (Cathy & Mark Avondet). A complete list will be provided in next month's newsletter.

I remain grateful for the trust and support I receive from the parish as I offer another year as chair. During these trying times may we remember the importance of our Church and the prayers and support that are needed to remain a strong parish.

My Thoughts

A number of years back I tried to teach my great-nephew and my granddaughter (let's call them Blake and Izzy) what I call the "Three R's" to follow in life. I told them that if they lived by them it would help them grow to be good people leading a good life. I can only hope they remember them, as they were only about 4 or 5 years old at the time! I'd like to share them with all of you.

Rules - There are always rules in life that must be followed... follow them.

Respect -It is so important to respect yourself and others - that means people and property.

Responsibility - Be responsible and take responsibility for your actions.

This brings me to thinking about how challenging 2020 has been in so many ways for all of us! How situations and stress may have led us to not re-

specting someone else for thinking and believing something different from us, not following rules because we may not agree with them, or not being responsible for our own actions when others' well being may depend on it.



Along with the sense of relief that this year is coming to a close we all know that on January 1, 2021 everything we've been experiencing doesn't just disappear. There is still a long road ahead of us before we can say we are back to "normal", whatever that may be. I heard it stated recently that maybe the "normal" we ultimately get to will be better than the "normal" we had before, who knows? We know in life there will always be good and bad; happiness and sadness; and calmness and anger. It is so important to remain patient, make wise decisions, offer random acts of kindness to others in need, and above all keep our faith strong knowing that God is guiding us every step. I keep a verse from Helen Steiner Rice taped to my computer that I try to read often, especially when I'm feeling overwhelmed... "No matter how steep the mountain - The Lord is going to climb it with you".

Let our journey into the new year be lead by Christ and include keeping our faith in the forefront, living the "Three R's", and continuing to pray for the time when we can all be together again in prayer and fellowship.

From our Parish Chair (Continued)

Here's one story about the history of the candy cane... To celebrate Christmas, a candy maker decided to make a candy that would include several symbols of the life of Jesus Christ, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He began with a stick of pure white, solid candy; white to symbolize the firm love Jesus has for all of us. The candy maker made the candy in the shape of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus. Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker added red stripes. He used three small stripes to represent the nails that held Jesus on the cross and a large stripe to show the blood shed by Jesus, giving us the promise of eternal life. Then he added the wonderful flavor of peppermint which is a royal gift of spice. So perhaps the next time you look at this familiar Christmas decoration you will remember the candy maker and the real meaning behind the Christmas candy cane: The wondrous birth of Jesus and His great love for us all.



"It's a water base paint, just thin it down with water." They continued painting and thinning until the color started losing its depth and when they finally finished it was dark green at the top, light green in the middle and a very light green (almost white) at the bottom. The preacher and his flock were standing on a nearby hill admiring their work when a dark cloud appeared and the heavens opened up with a deluge of rain which washed all of the newly applied paint off the church. The preacher was in tears and the congregation was stunned at all the hard work they had done for nothing. Just then there was a huge lightening flash followed by the roll of thunder and a loud voice from the heavens rang out, "REPAINT, REPAINT AND THIN NO MORE."

A HARD DAY'S WORK: A preacher and his flock at a very poor church in the hills of Tennessee took up collections, baked cakes and washed cars for months to get enough money to buy paint for the church exterior which was bare and weather-beaten. Finally they went to Wal-Mart and bought enough paint for the job and all joined together on a Saturday morning to complete the job. When they were about half finished they realized that they were going to run out of paint before finishing. The preacher said,

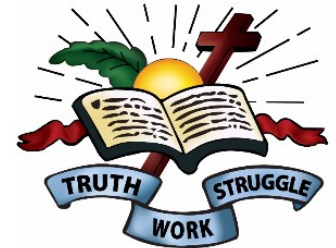
My Christmas wish to all parishioners and friends of St. Mary's
Although we may be feeling sad that our Christmas will likely be very different this year let us all remember CHRIST is the reason for CHRISTmas. The joy of that day is with us no matter who we're spending it with or what our activity may be. May the Christmas Spirit of Love, Joy, and Peace be with you this Christmas and throughout the new year!
Merry Christmas - Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia

elaine p. ploskonka

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2020 PNCC



**December 2020 - St. Joseph: Protector of Our Lord
*Obedience, Trust, & Patience***

As we begin a new Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent and continue to pray for healing, health and love for our nation and the world; this month on our discipleship journey we focus on St. Joseph.

[Click Here to watch a short video message on St. Joseph by Dr. Shirley Mietlicki Floyd](#) (or visit PNCC Future Direction on Youtube)

Scriptures for Reflection

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-52

Questions for Reflection:

St. Joseph was obedient to the will of the Father even when asked to do some very difficult things. Have you struggled to embrace God's will for your life in the past? How can you spiritually prepare to more fully surrender your life as a disciple of Jesus?

Name a few important "discipleship qualities" that St. Joseph demonstrates?

Which one would you personally like to better emulate?

How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?

How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously?



Prayer in Time of National Anxiety

Let us pray.

I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation and our world. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of all people. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of all people. May Your

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Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord 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.

Wishing you and your family a Blessed Advent Journey to the Incarnation. 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!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Various Announcements

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION– Thanks to all who participated and assisted in this digital/live event on Tuesday December 8 – perhaps more events like this may occur in the future! A write-up will be in next month's newsletter.

NEW LITURGICAL CYCLE – The Advent Season brings about many changes – different vestments, a wreath, a time to collect thoughts in a penitential season. It also brings about the "Liturgical New Year," that is, the readings are of a prophetic nature, the gospel begins in a new point of history (preparing for the coming of Christ), and the gospel is from (mainly) St. Mark after hearing from St. Matthew for the past year. Any questions about this, please see Fr. Jason.

OPŁATKI – Has been blessed and is placed on St. Joseph's Altar. You may take however much you want – we just ask that you leave a donation in the basket. Since it is a blessed item, you are to use all of what you take and are not to throw any of it in the garbage.

MASS BOOKS – Do you miss having a Mass Book to use and reference during Holy Mass? We will be "granting" Mass Books as an option– please stop by the Board Room before Mass if you haven't been able to reserve one as of yet. It will be yours to keep & bring back-and-forth to church for worship.

SPECIAL THANKS – To Patti & Dale Dotson, who happened upon two windows that were blown upon in the December 1 mega snow storm – they took quite a bit

of time to clean, de-ice the windows, and seal them up. Bóg Zapłać!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE ADJUSTED- We are adding an extra Mass on Christmas Eve at 5pm to hopefully pare down the Midnight Mass crowd a bit– our challenge is to remain comfortably socially distant, and an extra Mass is thought to help best. The 5pm Mass will be a Low Mass, without singing nor an organist. Our Midnight Mass will take place, preceded by a choir concert as usual. Christmas Day Mass takes place at 10am.

CLOTHING DRIVE–The National United YMSofR once again is holding a clothing drive across the entirety of the PNCC. Parishes will collect all sorts of new and previously-loved clothing and tabulate what was collected at the end of the drive. Clothing will be donated locally – a collection box has been set up and will be oft-emptied to allow for your wonderful donations!

SCHEDULING MASSES – Fr. Jason is now scheduling Masses for 2021. You may offer a Mass for the health or in honor of someone who is living, perhaps for a particular life event, or you may offer Mass for one who is now living in Heaven. These can be offered at anytime, but often coincide with the day they left this world, a birthday, anniversary, or so on.

PTO NEWS – Unfortunately, the PTO will not be holding their annual Christmas Party, nor doing a Christmas Card delivery for parishioners. Perhaps a Christmas in July event in the future???

TAKE-HOME WIGILIA/WILIA – At the suggestion of the parish committee, YMSofR Branch #29 will be sponsoring a take-home Wigilia/Wilia dinner for Christmas Eve, 2020. Not everyone has a family to be with, and not everyone has the time to cook. A care package, featuring meatless home-made and church-made favorites such as pierogi, mushroom soup, pickled beets, sauerkraut & peas, and more will be available in single-serving and family portions. The meal will be prepared, but purchased cold – heating instructions for each item will be provided. See the flyer!

FOOD COLLECTION – During Advent, we will have a guided food collection. There will be a collection table placed in the church, with non-perishable items needed to fill it! For next Sunday, December 20, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, please bring carbs: rice, pasta, crackers, even instant potatoes, etc.

DO YOU SHOP AT ACME? – St. Mary's recently signed up for Acme's Community Cash back program. From now until December 26, please place any receipt from ACME that includes any ACME brands in the parish collection bin – we will receive 5% back from each item purchased! A "tiny-effort" fundraiser that applies to any ACME.

FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE – Food Ministry is prepared to continue on a weekly basis throughout the entire month of December. As indoor gatherings are still limited in Ohio, it will remain a parking lot food ministry. Blessings to all involved!

December Days of Note



December Birthdays

- 1 Nick Paulus
- 4 Matthew Adams
- 7 Michele Barry-Misiewicz
- 8 Dale Dotson, Sr.
- 8 Bill Zychowski
- 11 Adolph Kasperczyk, Jr.
- 15 Ralph Zaun
- 17 David P. Micka
- 18 Ann Warzala
- 19 Ethan Long
- 20 Jessica Moritz
- 21 Jan Sobolewski
- 22 John Dankanich
- 24 Dale Dotson, Jr.
- 25 Katie Burger
- Eileen Matteson
- 27 Paul LeMessena
- 29 Halina Dreger
- 31 Jack Spilka



December Anniversaries

- 2 Chester & Ann Warzala
- 25 Ralph & June Zaun
- 28 Don & Marilyn Burger

Visit us online at
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our YouTube channel

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YouTube Channel

"The Star Still Shines"

Oh, star set high in a winter sky
by God's almighty hand
stretch forth thy light and shine tonight
on men in every land.

In hearts renew the flame that drew
proud kings to an Infant's birth -
the first crusade when a humble maid
gave God to the hungry earth.

Retard the pace of men who race
for coins of this world's minting.
From the measure spanned by a Baby's
hand
pours golden wealth unstinting.

Though men may lift the barren gift,
rich incense clouds the air.
When loaf and cup once more raise up
the Flesh and Bone of prayer.

And the blood not dry and the battle cry
of the wars that are never won
seem but as loss 'neath the tall dark cross
and the myrrh that anoints God's Son.

The gifts of today could never pay
for a stall in a barren manger
but the star still shines, and its golden lines
light the feet of the weary stranger.

Mary Jo Matthews



Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer | Barbara Baranowski |
| Bill Kastak | Anna Dawidziuk |
| Craig Atherton | John Spilka |
| Johanna Markiewicz | Mary Ann Loschelder |
| Ralph & June Zaun | Len Pryer |
| Marty Bengela | Tom Putynski |
| Polly Gajda | Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Louise Cygan |
| David Micka | Carol Hreha |
| Chester & Ann Warzala | Tom Petrie |
| Amy Dreger | Patti Dotson |
| Elizabeth Starnawski | Jack Spilka |
| Elaine Repede | John Radon |
| 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 Soltesy |
| Pam Tropiano | Linda Vect |
| Dennis and Sue Vect | Marcus Vaughn, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzurroff | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Kelly B | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Michalczyk | Cathy Pieciak |
| Nan Cramer | Bp. John Mack- |
| David Vaden | 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 | Julie L. |
| Barbara B. | Patrick Kmitt |
| Michael McGivern | Daniel Morgan |
| Barb & Jim Lucas | Renee Lucas |
| Mike Matis | Leslie Rafalko |
| Ronald Tiffe | |

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