

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2026

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

How Competitive?

I am a big baseball fan...and sports fan in general. And while sports are not necessarily and singularly important, competition is. Competition is unavoidable when it comes to having success in life.

For some, competition is unavoidable. I preached about this facet of my childhood not terribly long ago. It is not as if my parents pitted any of their four sons against each other by any means—our birth years were 1977, 1982, 1984, and 1991 which sort of makes it unfair—but it was natural.

A competitive nature is a curious one. There is something to be said about shooting ten baskets...and then trying to beat how many you made for the next set of ten. Or in math—my (sibling-less) son finds enjoyment in our daily math facts sheet we make for homework—to see improvement, to beat previous scores. Infamously, St. Paul writes of the race we run in 1st Corinthians 9:24- “Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it.”

Valedictorians exist because they are competitive, as does anyone who reaches the top in his or her respective field. At some point, a challenge against others or against

self had to be a propellant towards that day's perfection.

But there is a line, right? Sometimes, we are not quite sure what it is when we cross it, but we certainly know when it has gone too far. Think...players in sports making \$60 million per year...owners, by virtue of buying city property and a name making half a billion per year...think, the notion of now one-third of hospitals existing as “for-profit”...think hooliganism at a sporting event...think shunning family and friends because of a political affiliation...think, having to mute political ads because you have children in the house. Blurring of ethics, morals, and induced by competition that may be blatantly obvious to some, not so much to others...but obvious when it is too far.

I have a blast reading the Book of Ecclesiastes, and I know that I am not the only

one. Viewed with sunglasses that tint everything with the shade of wisdom, there is some real, practical advice that works for us in 2026. It hears the sounding-off of the worker, frustrated with the whole idea of living life to “just work”. It looks for meaningful work, the meaninglessness of ownership

We read in 4:4 “Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from one person's envy of another. This also is vanity (meaningless) and a chasing after wind.”

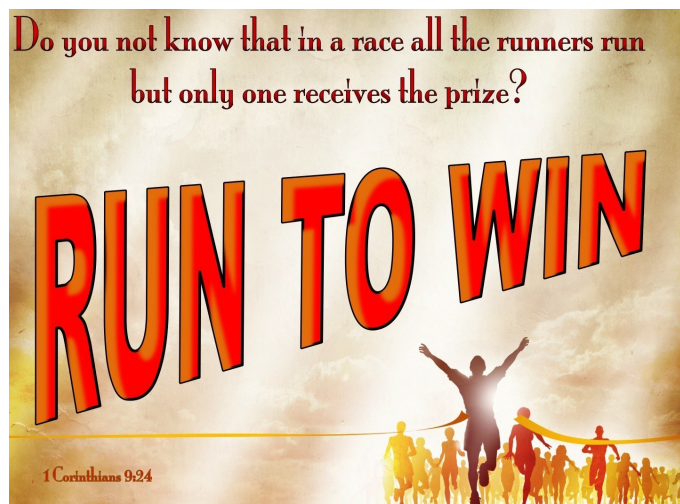
A near millenia later, scripture doesn't change its tone— St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter 5, verse 25-26- “If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.”

Then the chapter ends. What gives?

Is my desire and enjoyment of competition wrong? Should I skip watching the football season because, ultimately, who cares?

I try to do my best to empathize with St. Paul whenever I can. I mean, this is something he begs of us in his 1st Letter to the Corinthians, 11:1: “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

On one hand, Paul is fierce be-



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Opening Article (cont)

cause he has to be—his precociousness and love of the gospel leads him to great victories, but the Book of Acts also saw him beaten by the people of Jerusalem, Lystra, and Philippi as they reject his message.

On the other hand...Paul writes a bunch of his letters when he is my age-ish...maybe a few years later. The hair greying a bit, aches from collisions of the past, perhaps a little softer around the belly, perhaps no longer springing out of bed. Like any of us, he has come a long way from perhaps his late 20's—not only has God chosen him to be "apostle", but men of a certain age just start thinking...differently.

Paul writes a bit more to clarify his thinking on competition. Romans 12:9-10 says "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

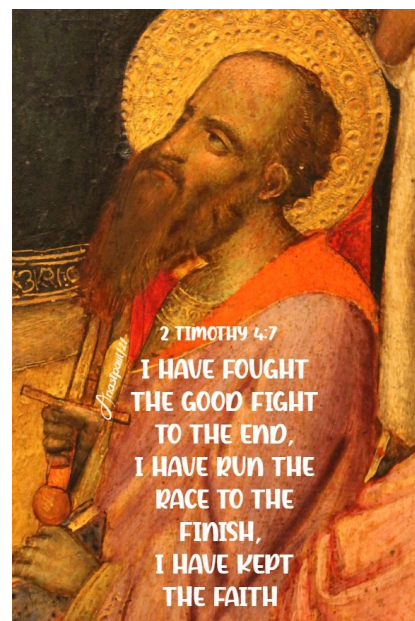
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."

Competition very well may be good after all – we just have to be spirited in the right things: for our Lord and building each other as well as His kingdom. It is a challenge of course, but one that even the least competitive should make sure to be a part of. Remember that quote from 1st Corinthians 1:24 earlier? Well, it continues in verse 25 "Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one."

It was always about our goal in heaven – the same Kingdom we have heard preached on throughout this summer and early autumn in the parables of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew. May our eyes, prayers, and actions continually reflect that prize we seek.

And our friend, St. Paul? In one of his last letters he wrote to his friend Timothy, he recollects on life, perhaps 10 years older than before (See picture below)

May we all be so lucky to win this particular competition. Fr. Jason



On The Rosary

The following is the opening of an article by Nicholas Natale, a parishioner of St. Mary's who was asked by Fr. Jason to prepare something for the newsletter this month. To read it in its entire ten page glory, see Fr. Jason to pick up a copy, see the attachment to the email with this newsletter, or [click here](#)

There are many things the Rosary is not. The list is endless. One need only to point at something else in the room, however, most importantly the Rosary is not a trinket or a piece of jewelry.

Although often bedazzled and glimmering, and sometimes even worn as a necklace, hanging from a pocket, or even wrapped around the wrist and hand...the Rosary is a weapon. In fact, the Rosary is quite often described as one of our greatest spiritual weapons. In St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians,

we are told to put on the armor of God. (Eph 6:13-17) A helmet of salvation, a breast plate of righteousness, a sword of the spirit, a belt of truth, shoes of readiness and a shield of faith. This type of armor isn't exactly what one can see or even what one might imagine someone wearing into a physical battle. Well, neither is the Rosary.

The Rosary is very much like what I refer to as spiritual brass knuckles. The Rosary is like spiritual chain mail. Now these are just metaphors...I use them to create imagery. When the rosary is wrapped on one hand or worn around the neck with no context, it looks like jewelry. Now imagine it's a weapon...and its purpose seems a lot more than just decorative.

Something very important to keep in mind is that we aren't always fighting against or protecting ourselves from

something we can see. We are fighting a spiritual war. We are protecting and strengthening our spirit and faith. This being the case, we don't use this weapon or armor the way one would typically think. We don't wrap this around our hand and run it through our fingers to throw a punch. We don't wear this around our neck to withstand a blow in the physical sense. But we do so in a way we cannot see and it's just as effective. Perhaps even more effective. Before I explain how to use the Rosary as a weapon, or as armor for our souls, and for our faith against the forces of darkness that stand opposed to the light, I would also like to point out that it's a prayer. It's a meditation. It's a reminder. And it has a history. I'd like to tell you a little bit more about where the Rosary comes from. Who the Rosary adores. And what we meditate on, but first who gave it to us.

Continued in Full Article

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Pot Luck and So-Long

Our Sunday Mass on September 6 was adjusted to 10am with a potluck to follow. We usually try to do a potluck in the early autumn, and the occasion for this one was especially joyful.

Jonah Godfrey-Cornish, who has been a worshipping member of St. Mary's for a couple of years now, had months ago expressed his desire to Fr. Jason to heed his call from Almighty God to a priestly vocation.

After submitting paperwork earlier this summer after his college graduation, he was accepted to enroll at the Savonarola Theological Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church. He begins a 6 semester course of prayer, study, parish life, introspection, and becoming one with the rhythm of the Catholic Church.

Parishioners of St. Mary's offered him and his family congratulations and gifts as he prepared for his matriculation. We look for-

ward to chronicling his growth in faith and love of our Lord as we keep him in our prayers.

For anyone wishing to further support Jonah in his journey to the priesthood, send him a line at: Savonarola Theological Seminary, 1031 Cedar Avenue Scranton, PA 18505. The Seminary also has a website, Savonarola.net, where we can keep tabs on him via updates, their newsletter, and more!



Seniorate Meeting

On Saturday, September 19, Fr. Jason, Barb Bogzevitz and Elaine Ploskonka drove to Resurrection PNC Parish in Temperance, MI for the annual Seniorate and Pre-Synodal Meeting.

The Seniorate generally gets together twice a year – once for the Lenten Retreat (held this past year at St. Mary's) and once to meet. Representatives and pastors from each parish took the opportunity to share successes and struggles of each of parish, allowing the abil-

ity to perhaps glean an idea or two from each other.

The upcoming Synod was discussed between a continental breakfast and a delicious lunch. We were also able to schedule our 2027 events: our Lenten Retreat to take place at Resurrection Parish in Temperance at 10am on Saturday, March 6 and our annual Seniorate meeting is to take place Saturday, September 18. Parishes of seniorate are in Parma, OH; Temperance, MI; Hamtramck, MI; Dearborn Hts., MI; and Sterling Hts., MI.

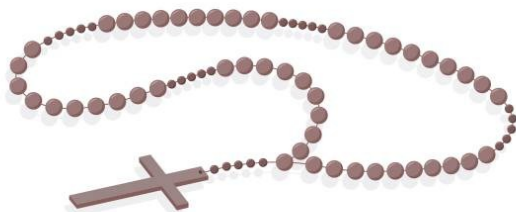


Mission Team Rosary Workshop

On Tuesday, September 1st, the Mission Team met in the Fellowship Hall for its monthly workshop. This month, rosaries were created via a kit purchased by president Barb Bogzevitz. During the workshop, rosary creation ranged from "why is this so hard!?" to "Henry Ford

would be hiring me!"

The rosaries are being created for the Holy Mother of the Rosary Solemnity on October 7 and some instruction to pray throughout the month.



September Eucharistic Adoration

Our monthly Eucharistic Adoration took place on a quiet Monday morning before the celebration of Holy Mass on the

September 21st Feast of St. Matthew, Evangelist and Apostle. It was a silent (not guided) adoration as we enjoyed the pres-

ence of the Sacrament before receiving its fullness during Mass. Our next Adoration is in conjunction with a worship-led Rosary on Wednesday, October 7.

Pierogi Making

A successful and enjoyable pierogi making venture took place on Saturday, September 26. Over the latter half of that week, the dough was prepared, filling was formed and

an alliterated group of "Professional Productive Polish Pinchers" came to provide a fellowship-rich service to his and her church. We look forward to our pierogi dinner on October 9 as well as some more pierogi pinching in the coming weeks.



Blanket Blessing

The Blanket Ministry of St. Mary's continues to serve God's people in our community and beyond.

On Sunday, September 14, a blanket was blessed for Jo Ann Long. Jo Ann was a long-serving Financial Officer, Lector, and custodian of St. Mary's. There was a period there where her car was just as omnipresent at St. Mary's as the crucifix in our sanctuary!

May the prayers of healing instilled in the (appropriately purple) blanket provide her with comfort and strength in the days ahead.



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Mini Lesson

Fr. Jason held another Mini-Lesson after 9am Holy Mass and during Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 20. This lesson included an explanation on the five Eucharistic Prayers that are in use in our normal course of Sunday worship at St. Mary's in our Polish National Catholic Church Missal.

Included were how they fulfilled "the minimum" to make them Eucharistic Prayers, the era where they were created and/or adjusted, and when they came into use in our Polish National Catholic Church. Special care was taken to note distinct similarities between a few of those Eucharistic Prayers/Canons in our Contemporary Rite.



Holy Mother of Sorrows

Holy Mass was celebrated on the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of Sorrows, September 15th. This was to which the following Sunday's penance was assigned, to reflect on the seven sorrows of Mary.



Fellowship Luncheon

The monthly St. Mary's Fellowship Luncheon took place at the Bistro on 130th on Thursday, September 24. An Italian meal was enjoyed by many; from eggplant to burgers to chicken parm and to spaghetti, our parishioners went home and struggled to stay awake with full bellies the next few hours! Thanks to Trish Karabowicz for the pictures

Our next luncheon will take place at 12:30pm on Thursday, October 22 at Blue Ginger in Parma—open to anyone who would like a day out!



Christian Fellowship

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XXVII P.N.C.C. General Synod

The XXVII General Synod of the Polish national Catholic Church began with Holy Mass on Sunday, September 27 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH. Fr. Jason scurried after the 9am Holy Mass celebrated at St. Mary's to make his 11am flight to Baltimore, which eventually routed him to Manchester.

With a few delays due to the epic North-east storm, he arrived right as Prime Bishop concluded his (assured) wonderful homily. After some greetings, he was vested to serve as a Master of Ceremony for the rest of Mass.

The Cathedral hosted a band and post-Mass appetizer-and-dessert party in preparation for the Synod. Guests enjoyed the local hospitality with scallops and chicken fingers (invented nearby!)

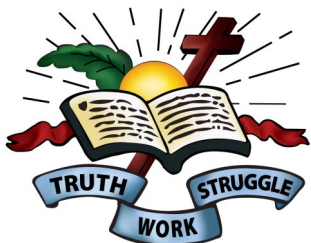
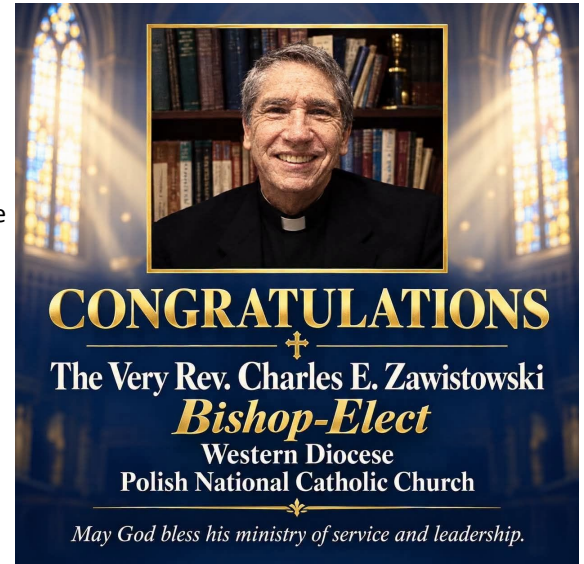
Morning meant the kickoff of the business portion of the synod, with one of the first orders of business to be the election of bishops. Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski was voted as bishop-elect, and Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky was voted as Prime Bishop for another 8 year term.

The synod voted that Effective January 1, 2027, the 6% assessment will be eliminated. Also beginning then, an obligation of \$200

per member is assessed via the National Church. A presentation provided by our Prime Bishop explained the change...and the synod was surprisingly in overwhelming favor of it.

The rest of the synod saw reports on various commission of the church, commissions established and re-established, the opportunity for people to raise questions, people to share successes, and of course, to connect with each other outside of official session. It is over a cup of coffee or while digesting lunch that the assigned "6 minute" break would become 4 or 5 times that. The synod had a friendly feel to it while still sharing overarching concerns on the future of the Church.

May all things we do in hopes of maintaining and building our Holy Church be centered first on prayer.



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Various Announcements

CANON – For the month of October, we use the 5th Eucharistic Prayer on p. 92.

FRIDAY PIEROGI DINNER – Support your church! a parish pierogi dinner, honoring National Pierogi Day, will feature our famous church-made pierogi, kielbasa, cucumber salad and more. It takes place Friday, October 9 4:30-6pm. We need your support and help!

XXVII PNCC GENERAL SYNOD – Fr. Jason and Elaine Ploskonka attended the PNCC General Synod this past Sunday-Wednesday. Some important notes and highlights – Fr. Jason served as an MC of the 6pm Holy Mass...albeit after landing about a half-hour later than hoped. He was also nominated to the office of bishop from the floor of the Synod, which he declined. He also served on the nominations committee as the clergy representative of the Western Diocese in determining the “qualifications and character” of other men nominated to the office of bishop. Of the four men who accepted nomination, one was prepared and met the “qualifications and character”, Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski from South Bend, IN. The Supreme Council met immediately following the Synod and scheduled his episcopal consecration for 3pm Wednesday, October 28 at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA.

Fr. Jason was also assigned by the Prime Bishop to continue serving in his roles on the National Commission on Liturgy, the National YMSofR, and the PNCC-Roman Catholic Dialogue. Elaine represented the parish well by reflecting requests of the parish committee and voting with their desires.

PET COLLECTION –Concludes...early October. Please consider bringing pet food, kitty litter, blankets, toys, etc.

TRUNK OR TREAT– Our Trunk or Treat event takes place on Sunday afternoon, 1-2:30pm Oct. 25 We had wonderful participation from our parishioners in the past and hope for a few more in this great way to reach out and be present in our community. Decorate your trunk (and self!) bring some candy and enjoy this warm-up to All Hallow's eve!

ST. MARY'S BOWLING – Has begun, taking place at the Red Circle. It isn't too late to see Elaine Ploskonka (216/536-3496) if you'd like to join a team or bring your own.

CATECHISM CLASSES –Have begun! May God bless those committing to the study of our Lord and His Church.

FAVORITE HYMN? – Do you have a favorite hymn, be it from another church, the radio, or wherever that you would like the choir to consider learning? Drop

a note to Fr. Jason, who will collect your favorites and pass them on to our Choir Director/Organist Chris.

ROSARY AND ADORATION –On Sunday, October 4th, new rosaries were blessed and distributed to all in attendance at 9am Holy Mass – there also was a place to bring your personal rosaries in to be blessed. That Wednesday, October 7th, the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of the Rosary, an hour of Eucharistic Adoration was held 6-7pm with the recitation of the Rosary in a worship setting, led by Fr. Jason. Holy Mass for the feast day followed– pictures next month! Pray for us, Mary!

ALL SOULS –Cemetery service takes place Sunday, November 1st at 11:30am at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th St. Envelopes will be available next week around church for you to fill out and remember your loved ones. All submitted names are remembered in prayer during the first 4 November Sunday Masses.

PERSONAL STUDY?– Savonarola Seminary and institute is offering classes to anyone interested– please see the inside front cover of this newsletter to learn what classes are being offered now and in the near-future.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

Oct 4 – Sophie & Martin Szpilka of. by John Spilka

Oct 11 – Steve Temesi (22nd Anv.) of. by wife Patty Temesi

2nd Intention—Ramon Torres of. by wife Carmen & family

Oct 18 – Helen Bogzevitz of. by son Bruce Bogzevitz

Oct 25– Adolph Kasperczyk (birthday) of. by son John & family

Nov 1 – Rose Bielecki (birthday) and Janice Bielicki (5th Anv.) of. by Jim Bielecki, Cathy Avondet, and family

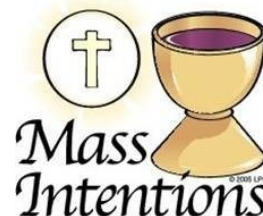
Nov 8 – Ronald Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe

Nov 15 – Hanna Pryer of. by daughter Evonne Pryer

Nov 22– Ann Stepanik of. by son Gene Stepanik

Nov 29– Adolph & Helen Kasperczyk (74th Wedding Anv.) of. by son John & family

We have run out of Sunday dates for intentions. Should the need arise, an intention can always be scheduled at a weekday Mass or as a Sunday Second Intention.



October Days of Note



October Birthdays

4th - Marzena Krulik
5th - Eileen Cashmere
7th - Elaine Repede
9th - Nancy Roharik
9th - Jo Orlowski
17th - Michael D'Arcy
18th - Ron Roharik
19th - Cathy Avondet
25th - James Boehnlein
25th - Bruce Bogzevitz
25th - Esther Davis
25th - Jim Nemec
30th - Krysta Kurzynski (Keale)
31st - Marlane Oleniacz
31st - Patty Temesi

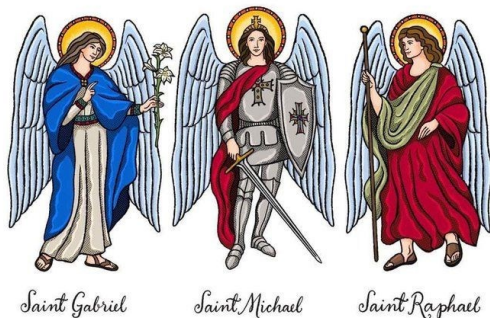


October Anniversaries

3rd - Jack & Lolly Spilka
4th - Jeff & Amy Dreger
5th - Pete & Debbie Moritz
7th - George & Patty Bennett

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

The ARCHANGELS



"Arch Angel Raphael"

Our journey can be long and exhausting
But don't lose hope or do not at all fear

For there is a big powerful fearful angel
That God sent and He's standing so near

He will watch us as we wander along
And will keep us from going far astray

And he will hold each one by our hands
And will teach each of us how to be brave

Our journey can be long and exhausting
Know it will not be that easy none at all

There will be many storms that will come
And we will all stumble and we will all fall

But God has sent us a mighty protector
That will guard us from all unseen harm

And he will walk with us and will comfort
And will guide us all so very gentle along

**Honoring the Feast Day of the Archangel
Raphael—October 24**

• **Sidney Conrad (2025)**



Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Rev. Greg Gronn
Bill Kastak	Gail Perz
George Makovicka	John Spilka
John Beno	Patrick Kmitt
Eddie Kawa	Lucy-Louise Hoegler
Marty Bengala	Tom Putynski
Jeff Parady	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Mike Paulus
Donna Micka	Ron Ference
Ed Pierson	George Bennett
Florence Nemkovich	Pattie Dotson
Nicole McGivern	Jack Spilka
Kenneth Parks	David Vaden
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Michael McGivern
Jay Grabowsky	Carmen Torres
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
Pete James	Tom Pietka
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzurowf	Sue Simenc
Doreen Stanley	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
Toni Colwell	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Jim Lukas
Sage McLane	Dave Tuma
Diane Ellis	Shyanna Tiller
Jim Giles	Kathleen Sobocinski
Bill Zychowski	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Joseph Zube	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
Paul Smith	Julie Van Horn

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



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