

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

February 2020

Pastor: Rev. Jason H. Soltysiak
frjason82@gmail.com
Cell: 216-978-6645
Office hours– Mon 10-1, Thu 12:30-3

Parish Chair: Mrs. Elaine Ploskonka
elaineploskonka@gmail.com
Cell: (216)536-3496



Candles

Sunday, February 2 was one of those rare opportunities that a Solemnity in the life of Jesus Christ tied to a specific date occurred on a Sunday. We were able to be treated to the blessing of candles at the opening of our liturgy, replete with the call of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, His representation as the Light of the World, and, of course, blessed candles distributed at the end of Holy Mass.

I've long had a love-hate relationship with candles. I think part of it had to do with my start as an altar server at the age of 4...and not being allowed anywhere near a lighted candle. Since I'm in charge a little boy just more than halfway to 4, of course I see why. I remember times when I just couldn't get the candles lighted before Mass, and the embarrassment of asking for help. I remember the glory of assigning other kids the menial job of candle lighting once I was a



senior altar server...then becoming a priest and spending too much of my time with dirty, waxy hands developing my thesis in performing advanced candle-ectomies.

In the recent past, I've written about the candle of the Sanctuary Light as well as Votive Candle stands, but today, my words are dedicated to candles – sacramentals of the faith, an avenue to bring us a bit closer to God.

Candles also have had a bit of a checkered relationship with the church – in fact, early on, they were sparsely used because it was a pagan custom to light them during ceremonies to keep demons away. In the 2nd Century AD, the great church writer Tertullian actively writes against the use of candles because of this. In the developing Christian worship, lighting was minimal – candles were for practical reasons only. Per scripture, we only have some inklings of practical candle use: in Acts 20:8, we hear that Paul and others came together on the 1st Day of the week to break bread, and, at midnight “There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting.” Like much of the history of developing Christian worship, the 4th Century is where many things came to form – it was this time that candles were used for purposes beyond need – for honoring a cele-

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



brant in procession or at Mass and later, for ornamental use. Writings from as far away as Spain held evidence of how they strung lights to highlight the worship.

It was a call of many churches to have great, large, ornamental candelabrum in church. In the same way we walk into a church in the 21st Century and marvel at stained glass, statuary, and woodwork, the same could be said about candled chandeliers and ornate candelabra. Popes often gave gifts of ornate candlesticks to churches as they traveled to them.

With all of this, it is interesting that candles only became obligatory at Mass in the 17th Century, about 250 years before electricity entered homes and buildings. Churches would be positioned and built to almost “glow” on the inside from sunlight coming through windows and, of course, though not obligatory, candles would be omnipresent.

Fr. Jason's Article (cont)

The amount of candles in a church has had some basic rules develop over time. Evidence shows that a procession of seven candlelights, then placed around the altar after the opening procession, honored bishops and popes in their celebration of Mass. This is where the most popular candle set up in church has its history, which was then mandated in 1600. With the reminder that the altar facing the people is very new, the popular structure would be six larger candles on the altar, with the seventh reserved for if a bishop was celebrating Mass. Having had a few bishops at St. Mary's, many may recall the bugia, the extra candle placed near the Missal on

the altar when he has Mass here. Finally, the make-up of the candle. Not all candles are alike, and the only early rules stated that the candle must be of natural origin and clean-burning, with no noxious smoke or gas to come off of it. Per that same 1600 writing on candles, it was stated that all candles, plus the Paschal Candle, must be at least 65 percent beeswax, unless allowed otherwise by the local episcopal authority (for example, a warmer climate would mean a larger-percentage beeswax candle would melt before being burned!).

That number requirement would later drop to 51% beeswax. This is

what St. Mary's uses and they smell great – ask Fr. Jason or Deacon Jim to have a sniff of a newly-opened one. Allowances have been made through the years to allow liquid wax, bulbs, and other candle replacements in the church setting.

In everything, they represent the light of Christ. That light is brought anew each Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil, when the new light lights every candle in the church, echoing the evangelistic words of John 1:4-5a: "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness". *Fr. Jason*

YMSofR News

Branch #29 recently concluded its clothing collecting, having participated in the PNCC-wide United YMSofR Call for a clothing collection campaign. This is the third time the United YMSofR has led this important campaign.

Parishes were called to have a clothing collection and to donate them locally, beginning in November. The items were to be then counted and tallied, with a designed scoresheet

in order to offer a monetary prize to the YMSofR Branch that "won", or collected the most/tallied the most points.

Our local Branch #29 had won the first two competitions to collect clothes church-wide, but this year (Praise God for all the loving donations!) competition has looked like it has ramped up.



Regardless, our approximately 700 items were donated to the Cleveland Big Brothers/Big Sisters, who collected them all on Saturday morning, February 1st. Thank you to all who donated!



Prayer Blanket Workshop

On Wednesday, January 29, the members and friends of the Mission Team came together as the Prayer Blanket group in order to create some new blankets for this important parish ministry.

The fabric is researched and purchased by the feedback of those who have received – and one of the recent batches of feedback desired ones that were a bit more “manly”. So, with that in mind, the purchasers planned out a few that would be reserved for that particular need, as well as other ones that would be balanced enough to be received by anyone else.

The volunteers arrived around 10am to begin, with Fr. Jason blessing their break-

fast and having a bite with them. Work proceeded with pinning and tying until it was time for the Wednesday noon Mass. After that prayerful break, it was back to work for the afternoon.

Thank you again to those who participated in any way, and please feel free to let Fr. Jason know if a parishioner, family member, or friend may be in need of a prayer blanket, blessed, prayed-over, and with hands laid upon it.



Installation of Parish Officers



The Installation of parish officials took place at 9am Mass on Sunday, January 5. These were the members of the parish committee, auditors, and tribunal representatives elected at our December parish meeting to serve St. Mary's during 2020.

The Installation takes place during Mass and is interesting in that the elected Chairperson of the Parish Committee has a primary role in presenting everyone else to the pastor for the Installation. After that,

the pastor takes all others in church as witnesses to the election process, this presentation, and the oath that will be made.

After the pastor leads the oath of office, they are now official for service to the parish in 2020. St. Mary's always keeps a display of the names of those elected committee members for anyone who

enters our church. God bless everyone who has taken on the ministry of administration at our beloved parish.



Parish Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Mary's took place on Sunday, January 26. There was only one Mass scheduled for this morning at 9am, so as to allow all members to attend. As has been successful recently, we also offered an array of cold cuts, cheeses, breads, and veggies in addition to the coffee and cake of Sunday morning. Kielbasa loaf was the big hit!

After being reminded incessantly by Fr. Jason to read the reports while enjoying their luncheon, the meeting began with the call to order by chair Elaine Ploskonka. 2019 was reviewed in full – financially, some goals fell a bit short. Spiritually, the compass seemed to be pointing in the right direction. Growth-wise, we enjoyed our best Mass attendance in quite a while. There were also a number of new members that were celebrated as well.

The "Staples" of the meeting were taken

care of: Pastoral report, Buildings & Grounds, Approval of the Budget, tentative upcoming fundraisers. The meeting actually came in under two hours, with plenty of productive discussion and goals laid-ahead for the remainder of 2020.

With everything discussed, we must be reminded that it is with prayer, reverence, and dedication not only to the cause of St. Mary's, but to following Jesus Christ correctly – as a loving, worshipping, reverent, erring, forgiven disciple.



Fat Tuesday



Tuesday, February 25, 2020 5 pm – 7 pm

All you can eat Pancake & Sausage Dinner:

regular pancakes
potato pancakes
sausage patties
sausage links

syrup
fruit toppings
sour cream
applesauce

whip topping
coffee
orange juice
pop/water \$1

\$8 ~4 pancakes, sausage patty or link, coffee, orange juice
\$3 kids (12 & under) 2 pancakes, sausage patty or link, juice

Featuring the musical stylings of St. Mary's own, Accordion Bill!

Michael Angelo Polish pączki (donuts) available !

\$20 dozen
\$12 ½ dozen
\$2 each



Holy Hotcakes !

St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church
5375 Broadview Road, Parma 44134
440-781-7910 440-781-7912
.3 miles south of Brookpark Road
between Wexford and Marietta Ave
Handicapped Accessible

St. Mary's Sock Tree

For a second year, St. Mary's raised a tree in "St. Mary's Corner" of the church, under the watchful eye of the famous Sock Monkey Tree Topper.

The Sock Monkey (His name is Theo) made sure to impress on the visitors and friends of St. Mary's how important it was to donate socks for the upcoming cold spells that inevitably take over Northeast Ohio.

Luckily, Theo is quite persuasive, and the parishioners responded. The final count was: 170 pairs of men's socks, 74 pairs of women's socks, 20 pairs of panty hose, 24 kid's pairs of socks, and 4 pairs of gloves.



Various Announcements

SCHEDULING MASSES

Please see Fr. Jason to schedule Masses for your loved ones in 2020. Some dates have been filled, so if there is a date you normally keep, please make sure to inform Fr. Jason in person, via email, or by phone. Thanks!

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Information for scholarships from the National United Choirs is available by seeing the forms posted on the bulletin board or by talking to Chris Paulus or Deacon Ploskonka.

HYGIENE KITS

The Mission Team hosted a hygiene kit packing party last Monday, where 123 hygiene kits were put together to give to the Cleveland City Mission. Thank you to all who donated items, and to ensure this wonderful parish ministry continues.

ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to all who attended January's Annual Parish Meeting. It was an enjoyable, informational affair, tidied up in less than two hours and served

with a meal. Much, much appreciation.

CLOTHING DRIVE

The National United YMSofR clothing drive has come to a close. Over 700 individual items, ranging from coats to pants to gloves were collected and picked up by Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

SUPERBOWL SQUARES

Thank you to Mr. Ron Ference, who put together not one, but two batches of Superbowl squares for this year's big game, which for some reason forgot to include the New England Patriots. We had a lot of double winners! Congrats to our winners: John & Eileen K., Millie D., Damion A., Steve F. and Michele, the priest's kid.

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, we hold our 1st 2020 Restaurant Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse in Ridge Park Square. We also will have a bake sale – please consider baking!

HOLY HOTCAKE DINNER ON FAT TUESDAY

All-You-Can-Eat Pancake and Sausage dinner takes place Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 5-7pm. For \$8, you'll get a serving of pancakes (regular or potato), sausage, coffee/juice, with the option to repeat...again & again! For \$3, kids 12 and under get a half order. See posted flyers!

PACZKI SALE

Our annual pączki sale has begun! Please find the order forms in the Fellowship Hall and turn them in near the parish mailboxes. They will be from Michael Angelo's bakery this year.

LENTEN RETREAT

The annual Northeastern Seniorate Lenten Retreat takes place Saturday, March 7 at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI. About a 2 hour drive from St. Mary's, this is a wonderful annual tradition where food and transportation is provided.

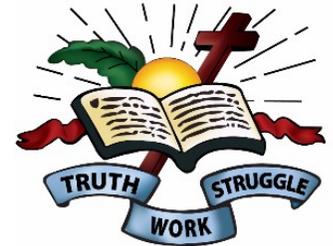
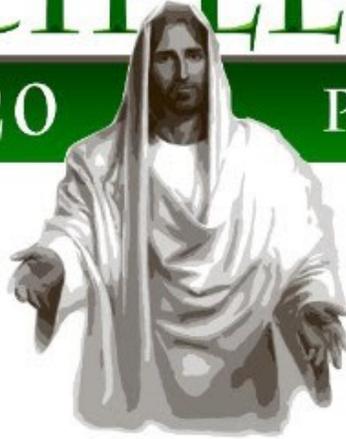
PIEROGI MAKING

For our upcoming March dinner and for Easter takes place this Saturday, beginning at 9:30am. Please consider stopping by to lend a hand to aid our parish in its endeavors.

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2020 PNCC



February 1, 2020

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,

PIETY AND COMPASSION

DISCIPLESHIP 2020 will present monthly messages focused on the lives and messages of the disciples of Jesus. Each month will present a short video, a scripture passage, and questions for reflection – all related to the particular disciple.

FEBRUARY 2020 – SIMEON AND ANNA

[Click Here to watch a short video message on Simeon and Anna delivered by Fr. Charles Zawistowski](#)

[Click Here to watch a short video message on Piety and Compassion delivered by Kathy Nemkovich](#)

Scripture for Reflection—Luke 2:22-38

Questions for Reflection:

Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah and told others in the Temple about Him.

*Can you come up with 2 practical ways by which you can do the same?

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

*Name a few important “discipleship qualities” that Simeon and Anna demonstrate?

*Which one would you personally like to better emulate?

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

PNCC Future Direction is also 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.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

February Days of Note

February Birthdays

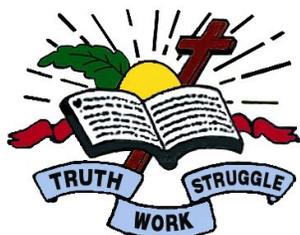


- 2nd – Mrs. Andrea Grmovsek
- 3rd – Carole D'Arcy
- 4th – Paul Wankowski
- 5th – George Bennett
- 7th – Louise Cygan
- 7th – Claire Hunek
- 8th – Pollyanna Gajda
- 11th – Teresa Kasperczyk
- 13th – Matthew Moritz
- 16th – Owen Arnold
- 18th – Karen Bedocs
- 18th – Maximilian Ploskonka
- 22nd – Amy Dreger
- 23rd – Joyce Knapp
- 25th – Fr. Greg Gronn
- 26th – Walker Ploskonka
- 28th – Helen Budney
- 28th – Tom Putynski

February Anniversaries



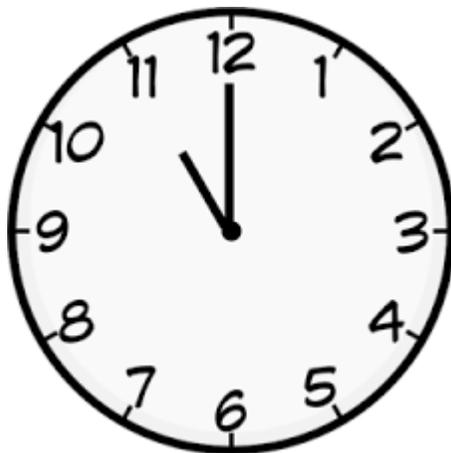
- 2nd – Bill & Joan Kastak



**Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org
Or like St. Mary's in
Parma, OH on Facebook**

**Know Fat Tuesday history!
(And come dine at St.
Mary's, of course)**

In the Middle Ages Shrovetide feasting was announced throughout England with the 11am 'Pancake Bell'. In Cheshire the signal was called the 'good-eating' 'Guttit' bell:



But hark, I hear the pancake bell,

And fritters make a gallant smell.

The cooks are baking, frying, boiling,

Stewing, mincing, cutting, broiling,

Carving, gourmandizing, roasting,

Carbonading, cracking, slashing,

toasting.



Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer | Barbara Baranowski |
| Bill & Joan 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 |
| Helen Budney | David Micka |
| 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 | Sharon Seitz |
| Jay Grabowsky | Pam Chesar |
| Cecelia Hall | Caroline Kunes |
| Linda Marks | Thomas Lill |
| John & Anne Nemetz | Rhonda Smith |
| Rose Neyman | 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 Dzurhoff | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Cherise Pacanovsky | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Michalczyk | Cathy Pieciak |
| Nan Cramer | Rose Petrosky |
| Bp. John Mack | David Vaden |
| Bp. John Swantek | Mary Cawley |
| Richard & Edna Samelson | Jim Giles |
| Wanda Heffner | Loretta Baldwin |
| Donna Kidd | Paulette Lilli |
| Anthony Grad | Azriel G. |
| Marilyn Girard | Courtney Austin |
| Stephanie Milla | Rich Dombrowski |
| Shannon Alberino | Jayden Pieciak |
| Jeremy Steinbrick | Katie Stallbaum |
| Marcia Klein | Barb Lucas |
| George & Linda Makovicka | Julie L. |
| Kelly B | Barbara B. |
| Michael McGivern | Sylvia Kowalski |
| Daniel Morgan | Emma Freshwater |
| Kim Penney | Tammy Teubl |
| Baby Layla | Carol Hreha |

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