

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

August 2018

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Summertime at Church

As many have noticed, our microphone/speaker system in church has been inoperable for the last couple of months. It went relatively unnoticed in the spring, but with the open windows in summer and our location on one of the busiest streets in the area, it can be a struggle to hear God's Word on a Sunday morning.

It started innocently enough - the system was picking up a baby monitor on the frequency we always used. Once I started fiddling around with the system, well...let's just say it didn't get better.

Acoustics...they could be tough. Within the twelve months before I left my last parish of St. Stanislaus in Scranton, we went through the whole riggermaroo of replacing the sound and speaker system...which included finding dead spots, intricate speaker placement, stories of wiring-gone-wild, and learning a new carillon system (the scheduled bells that ring at a church).

During the summer months, we are in



the Green of Ordinary Time. Very little can happen that disrupts what the priest would wear on a Sunday morning in a Polish National Catholic Church - we subscribe to the rule that only Feasts of Christ take precedent over a Sunday morning celebration.

So, for quite a long stretch, you only see green. And green means the life of Jesus, shown through his recruitment of followers, performing miracles, providing teaching, and giving advice. We don't hear much of those major chronological moments—those are often noted on days where the color is White.

Back to acoustics...Jesus had it all figured out. Now, a reminder I often give to hearers of the Word is the importance of traveling preachers as not only ministers of faith...but as entertainers. On paper, it kind of rings hollow. In 2018, it seems almost preposterous, given our ability to access all sorts of consumable media...until you realize that a guy like Joel Osteen (who I do personally like to listen to) packs a former basketball arena and has a net worth of upwards of \$60 million.

In the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 4, we see Jesus being pressed-upon by the crowd. Like Clevelanders flocking to Edgewater for a summer concert today, there was no better place to hear someone speak

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than the shore of a body of water.

Read aloud, we might think that the logistics of a crowd pressing in on Him would nudge him onto a nearby boat...but Jesus knew a thing or two. By hopping in a boat and preaching from it, the natural wind and waves heading toward the shore would be a carrier of sound, allowing his message to be even more clear than if he was simply standing amongst them—a homemade amphitheater.

As the Gospel wound, this preaching led to the increase of followers, an increase of difficulty in understanding of his message, and an increase of the ups-and-downs of the faith of those around him. One chapter, he was acknowledged as The Great Prophet, the next, thousands left his side as it was thought his teaching was too radical, too far on the blasphemous side.

As Polish National Catholics, it often reminds me of our organizer, Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur. His excommunication led to a mass exodus from the newly-formed St. Stanislaus Parish. Not wanting to go back to the parish they left (Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary), a new parish was established in the Greenwood section of town...where the deed was never granted for the parish of St. Stanislaus, it was conveniently given just a short time later.

Though many left Hodur and went back to what they knew, this actually became a rallying point for the bur-

Fr. Jason's Article (Cont)

geoning PNCC, with its greatest period of growth soon commencing.

For Christ, it was also gain by loss. The ones who left were in it for the entertainment, the free food, perhaps just to be part of the crowd. The Gospel would evolve as it progressed to show the depth of His teaching, and how yes, it became more complicat-

ed, but there would be no great insurrection by his followers again until the day of His arrest.

Simplifying the Gospel (never easy!) and comparing it to our denomination (never easy!) allows us to see how faith evolves, how it can be strained, and how it can be restored.

May these final weeks of summer, where church attendance often suffers and hot churches make the Word difficult to follow only serve to strengthen the faith we have in the most complex and simplest of teachings by our Lord and Savior.

Fr. Jason

Max's Baptism

Maximilian was baptized at St. Mary's on Sunday, July 29 at our 9am Holy Mass.

He is the son of Nate and Amanda Ploskonka, who were married here

at St. Mary's last year.

Max is a quiet boy, a frequent attendee and good listener at Sunday Mass, and a future point guard at the University of Kentucky. On the day of his baptism, he

chose to play it cool, staring down Father Jason as he poured the cool water on his head and smiling just a bit for his mother whenever they caught eyes. He enjoyed the quick pictures afterward, the pep talk given to him by the two other church babies, and later hanging out with his family.



Father Misiewicz Remembrance Mass

A Mass was held on Monday, July 2 at 9am in memory of our former Pastor, Father Roman Misiewicz.

Father Roman's family was in town from Missouri and with daughter Michele, decided to offer Mass in his memory and invited the parishioners too.

A nice crowd showed up, and plenteous

food and beverages were included. Father's grandchildren kept everyone entertained, which included much of our Love of God Sodality.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord! And may perpetual light shine upon him!



Convo 2018

The National Youth Convocation of the Polish National Catholic Church is held every even year, rotating the four American Dioceses of our denomination.

This year, it was the Central Diocese's turn, and they chose to have it right in the backyard of the Cathedral at the University of Scranton

Our sole representative from our parish was Ethan Long. Ethan was away for his freshman year of college, and upon returning, made up for lost time at St. Mary's by attending weekday Masses and

helping out (a lot) around the church property. This included trimming bushes, sweeping, painting, moving tables, spackling, more painting....

Pictures for the Convo are on the facebook group titled "Convo 2018." Ethan has made himself available and is more than happy to talk to any of our parishioners about it. He shared with many one particular speaker that really stuck in

his craw.

A write-up on the event will be forthcoming in the Rola Boza/Gods' Field.



From our Parish Chair

Please be sure to read this one.....

It certainly feels like time continues to fly by faster and faster! Memorial Day and the start of summer seem like they were just yesterday and here we are with kids going back to school already and Labor Day right around the corner!

Parish life was a bit quieter than usual in the early summer months this year with the PolishFest being moved to September. Work began to pick up when it was time to prepare for the 9th Annual Dinner & A Car Show. I take this time to thank Steve Fesz and his family for once again orchestrating a successful event and for all the parishioners who pitched in to assist! Our guests were once again happy to be here and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon/evening!

If you haven't guessed where I might be headed well here it is..... ***a call for help!*** Our annual PolishFest is right around the corner. Our biggest, and most vital fundraiser of the year comes with the need for *FULL* co-operation from our parishioners. The more volunteers we have the easier the upcoming weeks of preparation will be and it will certainly make three days of work flow smoothly while being an enjoyable task. One of our biggest areas where help is needed during the PolishFest is in the Food Tent. Other areas are raffle and bakery booths, set-up, clean-up, and just being available for whatever may come your way. A meeting will be taking place between Masses this Sunday (8/19). A sign-up sheet will also be available in order to schedule filling all necessary spots. If you have any questions or have an interest in helping out but won't be at church to sign-up please contact either me or Fr. Jason – we'll be sure to include you on the list of volunteers!

For those of you receiving the weekly Sunday bulletin you've seen the plea for items to fill the baskets for the Basket Raffle. You will also read in the "Various Announcements" section of the newsletter information on what is needed. Unfortunately, response has been very low. Receiving these donations obviously keeps our cost down and revenue up. There is a poster board in the Fellowship Hall noting the needed items. If you are able to assist in this fashion please choose an item to donate, or offer a monetary donation if you are unable to shop for the items. Your support is truly appreciated!

Saturday, August 25 will be another day of **pierogi making**. It is hopeful this can/will be a productive day to make a lot of pierogi but there is always the possible need of one more time before the Fest – we'll keep you posted. Please offer a helping hand that day, and, if you have any friends that might like to help as well, bring them along!

With all that said here are two more things: 1) *Thank You* for reading this and taking to heart what is being asked! 2) It is true that as a small parish, a lot is asked of our parishioners and sometimes that may feel overwhelming but we must realize that as members of this family the *spiritual, physical, and financial success of our Parish is up to each and every one of us!*

elaine p. plaskonka

Just For Fun - - Crazy Days of August
(although some of these days have passed there's no reason not to celebrate them a little late). In case you're interested in reading about the history behind these days: visit holidayinsights.com

2nd- National Ice Cream Sandwich Day
4th - National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
5th- Friendship Day - First Sunday in August
6th- Wiggle Your Toes Day
7th- National Lighthouse Day
10th- Lazy Day
13th- Left Hander's Day
16th- National Tell a Joke Day
17th- National Thrift shop Day
21st - Senior Citizen's Day
22nd- Be an Angel Day
26th- National Dog Day
27th- Global Forgiveness Day – Now that a good one!
31st- National Eat Outside Day

Parish Chair....

Let's get cookin'

Here's a summer recipe that sounds fun to try.—How is a Spanish tortilla different from, you know, a *regular* tortilla? They're actually two completely different foods. The first, from Spain, is basically a giant omelet made with potatoes (um, yum). And the tortillas you eat with tacos...well, they're Mexican, and basically a vehicle for guac. So it's time you tried this mini Spanish tortilla with zucchini. It's perfectly portioned into one serving, so you can eat the whole thing yourself, and it's perfect for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Mini Spanish Tortilla with Zucchini (makes 1 serving)
1 medium russet potato
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 onion, thinly sliced

½ zucchini, thinly sliced
Kosher salt and freshly ground **black pepper**
3 large eggs
2 tablespoons grated Manchego cheese

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
2. In a medium pot, cover the potato with at least 1 inch of water and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Boil until the potato is fork-tender, 22 to 25 minutes.
3. Drain the potato, slice it into thin rounds and set aside.
4. Heat the olive oil in a small, oven-safe skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and zucchini; season with salt and pepper. Sauté until tender, about 4 minutes.
5. Add the potato slices and sauté until all the veggies are lightly browned, 5 to 7 minutes. Spread the vegetables into an even layer in the base of the pan. Remove the skillet from the heat.

MINI SPANISH TORTILLA WITH ZUCCHINI



6. Whisk the eggs together in a medium bowl and pour them over the vegetables. Top the eggs with the cheese.
7. Transfer the skillet to the oven and bake until the eggs are set and the potato and zucchini slices on the top are golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes.
8. Serve the tortilla warm or at room temperature with the side salad.

Various Announcements

Flowers

Towards the end of last summer, Father Jason began asking parishioners to bring in flowers from their home gardens to beautify the church. A few people have answered thus far, but the desire for fresh flowers remains. If you would like to bring in flowers to put on the main altar for a Sunday, please arrange with Fr. Jason so he can make sure it is acknowledged. We would love to schedule as many Sundays as possible!

Dinner and a Car Show

The Ninth Annual Dinner and a Car Show was a booming success! The vast majority of spaces were taken by classic cars, the weather was beautiful, everyone was happy to be at St. Mary's....and the food definitely did not disappoint. Many thanks to our 1st Vice Chair, Steve Fesz (and family) for organizing and running this event for our parish, as well as to

all who volunteered or patronized this event. A proper write-up with pictures will be in next month's issue.

Mass Requests

There are only three 9am Sunday Masses available to remember a loved one in prayer through 2018. Please see Fr. Jason. Available are 11/4, 11/11, & 12/30. If you would like an intention at the second Mass, be it in English or Polish, most are open as well.

PolishFest 2018

The dates have been set – the PolishFest will take place Friday-Sunday, September 7-9. See our Parish Chairperson's page for more info.

PolishFest Continued!

We are a month from the PolishFest! Time to start collecting items – we are in need of bottles of wine and liquor for the big raffle prize baskets that we have been doing. Also, unique themed baskets are needed as well

as any random NEW items to include in a basket are welcomed. We are also especially interested in instant lottery tickets - \$5 and over only please. Drop off items in the Board Room.

PolishFest Tshirts

After suggestions over the last few years, we have some tshirts unique to our PolishFest available for purchase this year. They are available before the event for the low cost of \$10, and we have sizes M-XXL available. We are asking our volunteers to please purchase shirts early, as sizes are first come, first served. We are asking volunteers to wear them on the Saturday of the event.

YMSofR Golf Tournament

Will be held on Sat. August 18 in the Buffalo, NY area. Please pray for the golfers, the attendees, and the safe travels and enjoyment of all. The proceeds go to directly benefit children of the PNCC, mainly at the annual Kurs camp in Waymart, PA.

PNCC Future Directions Update

August 1, 2018

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

The month of August across our Holy Church is a month where we focus on our youth and their importance in the Body of Christ – The Church and the family. Let us pray and encourage them by our example to grow in our Christian Catholic faith.

When parents have a child their life is forever changed – the newborn baby becomes an immediate priority for the parents. It is truly a blessing to have the opportunity to raise children and an important part is to raise them with belief and faith in God.

Here are a few ways to raise your children in our Polish National Catholic faith:

Put our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ first in your life. We teach our children not only in word but also by how we choose to live. We can set a great example for them by putting Jesus first – this means Jesus is a priority every Sunday. This is shown in our participation at Holy Mass and our support of the Church. Making sure that your children are a part of the parish family – teach them the importance of being part of a Christian community and with them attend Church regularly. If this is not that important to you then they will quickly pick up on this.

Read the Bible with them and teach them about God – both in word and your actions.

Pray for and pray with your children. Teach them the importance of time in prayer at the beginning and end of each day and before and after meals.

By the way you choose to live show them what a Christian should look like – as Jesus tells us we are in the world but don't belong to this world. By the way that we live and the way that we love others, regardless of how they are and what they may have done to us, show them this example. They will know we are Christians by our Love.

Serve others with your children. Volunteer with them to help others – especially those in need. Again, setting the example following the teachings and examples of Jesus in your lives.

Encourage Godly and good influences in their lives. This begins with selecting Godparents who are faithful and active members of the Church. Show them examples of others who live good and up-right Christian lives.

By being disciples of Christ, teach them the meaning of discipleship. Live and share your faith by example not just with your children but with those whom you encounter in life.

August 26th is Youth Sunday in our PNCC – plan a special event this day. On this Sunday have a special blessing of your parish youth. Have a blessing of the youth and their backpacks as they begin a new school year. Speak about the importance of living as Jesus teaches: Have a special message to them this Sunday and encourage them as disciples of our Lord and members of our PNCC to put this into practice by making a pledge against bullying.

[Click here for a PNCC Youth Pledge against Bullying](#)

Our Church regularly plans special and sacred time to teach and encourage our children/youth to grow in their love and service of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Church. We just had Convo 2018, the Kurs, diocesan Acolyte retreats and Youth retreats and gatherings are still coming later this month. Encourage your children and those in your parishes to participate in this live changing youth activities. Make sure they participate in our School of Christian Living program as well.



PNCC Future Directions Update (continued)

Here are some prayers to offer:

Prayer for Parents: (PNCC Prayer Book 2010)

Loving God and Father, You gave me my child (children) and I am committed to bring him (her, them) up in the Church in love of You. Assist me in this sacred duty. Teach me what to give him (her, them) and what to withhold; when to correct and when to refrain; when to be gentle and when to be firm. May my child (children) grow in Your grace and in piety. By word and example may I lead him (her, them) in the ways of faith, wisdom and love. I pray that I may fulfill my parental responsibilities that You have placed upon me, so that my child (children) may be faithful to You and Your Church. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Youth: (PNCC Prayer Book 2010)

Loving and kind Father, because You created us in Your image and likeness and determined that one generation should follow another in order to continue life, keep in Your tender and steadfast care the youth of the Church. May they come to know and understand that true happiness can be attained when they live in harmony with Your teaching. May they, like our Lord and Savior in His youth, grow "in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Child's Prayer: (PNCC Prayer Book 2010)

Heavenly Father, You gave me my parents and commanded me to love, honor and obey them in all things. Give me Your grace, so that I may respectfully fulfill Your commandment to honor my mother and father (guardians). May I also love and respect my siblings, friends, teachers and relatives. Remove from me all pride, rebellion, stubbornness and carelessness. Create in me a clean heart and mind. Keep me strong in my faith, so that I may continue to grow in Your grace and in wisdom each day. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

The Synod of our Holy Church is quickly approaching. As we are just two months away – let us pray for this Holy Gathering.

Let us pray...Heavenly Father, Grant us Your grace and blessing, as we prepare to gather together in Holy Synod to seek the Lord Jesus through Your Holy Church. Send Your Holy Spirit upon our Holy Church, that we may be guided by Your Holy Will. Strengthen our bishops, clergy and laity who will gather so that their decisions at Holy Synod may help lead others to Your Son Jesus Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

We are encouraging all our parishes to please keep in your prayers our upcoming Holy Synod now just five months away. In preparation for our Holy Synod we are asking for you to share with our committee pictures and testimonials from successes that you have experienced as you implemented the future direction over these past four years. Please email them to FutureDirection@pncc.org

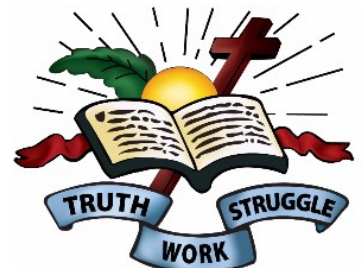
We hope you enjoy quality time with your family and have a blessed summer.

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*—Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*

We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:

- Growth and Membership
- Increase Spirituality
- Lifelong Learning
- Sacred Vocations
- Community Involvement and Presence



August Days of Note



August

- 1st – Johanna Markiewicz
- 2nd – Kyrsten LeMessena
- 4th – Blake Colwell
- 5th – Bob Samelson
- 6th – John Spilka
- 12th – Clarence Sobocinski
- 14th – Sarah Dicken
- 15th – Tom Petrie
- 16th – Bruno Tracy
- 18th – Steve Fesz
- 19th – Len Pryer
- 20th – Claudia Toburen
- 24th – Matt Spilka
- 28th – Cherie Kugler
- 28th – Julie Alberino



August

- 1st – Chuck & Elaine Repede
- 5th – George & Roseanne Ziefler
- 17th – Bruce & Claudia Toburen

Conversion

Through this life I am continually fleeing
Trying to escape without anyone seeing

A day here, a night there, no matter where I go
I continue to feel the conviction grow

Why am I running when there is no place to
hide?

For I have seen that no matter where I go, He
sees me with His condemning eyes

I am becoming weak and at my lowest yet I
continue running and trying to flee
Feeling more and more convicted of the sin
within me

And why am I feeling such in-depth pain?
It is because I fooled myself into thinking "I"
could make it all go away

Only was it then when I saw how lost I was
Did I see that with those condemning eyes
came His redeeming love

I realized that only through Him was there life
And only through His Son could I win the fight

I accepted Him as my Savior that day
Willingly becoming a sheep that He, the Great
Shepherd, would not let stray

There are still times in which I fail
But due to my new life in Him, I will prevail

For no matter what I face throughout this life
As long as I trust Him, He'll carry me through
the strife

Giving all of my dependency to Him that day
Changed my life forever, and with Him I'll ever
stay.

Timmy Thomas-



Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

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 Bengala	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Frank & Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Gail Perz	Amy Dreger
Halina Dreger	Patti Dotson
Jack Spilka	Barbara Bogzevitz

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Sharon Seitz
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Mark & Kim Andreas	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzurow	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Bill Hinton
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Mary Cawley	Edna Samelson
Anthony Soltysiak	Geri S.
Wanda Heffner	Larry Bernacki
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Muffie B.	Nancy Jablonowski
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Julia Badarzynski
George & Linda Makovicka	Mike Sikut
Kelly B. Barbara B.	Julie R.
Julie L.	

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org

