

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

February 2022

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come ones "for us" ...or any other Christian denomination. It makes sense- they print books, have the media outlets, they market, have the history and have the numbers.

Amongst the changes to liturgy, policy, titles, restructuring...it also included upheaval of the Calendar of Saints. The Calendar of Saints is intertwined with the civil calendar and overall church calendar (also restructured at Vatican 2) to create the structure of how we priests lead our churches on a daily basis.

All of this included the removal of February 14th as St. Valentine's Day. Now, one walk down the stationary aisle at CVS will tell you otherwise, but that is the calendar in the Roman Catholic Church for now a half-century. In fact, the wonderful and influential Saints Cyril and Methodius were given February 14 as their new Feast Day. This was substantial because they are the saints who are given credit for bringing Christianity to Europe...who would ever want to argue against that!

Also, St. Valentine has been systematically removed as the patron saint for many Catholic Churches. A simple internet search will let you know how

few there are in the United States, and a little more sleuthing will indicate that quite a large percentage of existing "St. Valentines Catholic Church" are actually Polish National Catholic! Previous parishes under the patronage of St. Valentine were targeted in the nationwide merging and closing of Catholic parishes within the last 20 or so years. The subsequent saint or event assigned to newly-formed parishes bend towards American Saints, saints who lived and/or ministered to many locales, or saints that are not considered overly "ethnic".

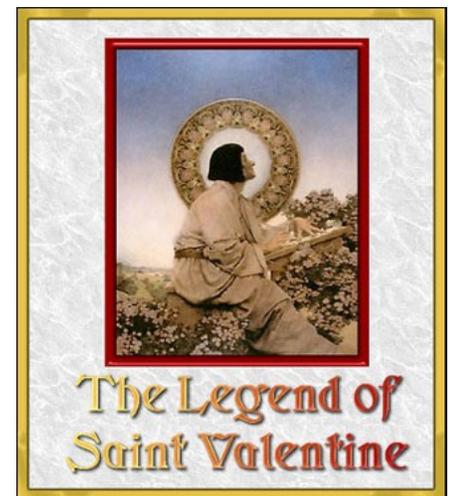
Since the Polish National Catholic Church was already well-established by the 1960's, the adjustments to the Calendar of Saints was not included in anything we ever did. Within a few decades, we did adopt the rhythm of understanding the church year in "Ordinary Time" rather than

The Curious St. Valentine

I was recently listening to one of the podcasts I am faithful to and a commercial came up for Valentine's Day some 3 weeks before the actual date of February 14, reminding guys to place their flower orders sooner rather than later. Not a bad reminder!

For many people, St. Valentine might be the first Saint they know something about, as secular as the day has become. In fact, the argument can be made that many Catholics have deemed it an entirely secular day by actions that have taken place some 50 years ago.

It was during the 2nd Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church (1962-1965) that sweeping changes were made in the Roman Catholic Church. As the Roman Church is the largest and most influential of Christian religions in the world, decisions that were first meant for "them" often becomes decisions that have be-



Fr. Jason's Article (con't)

"Sunday's after Epiphany or Pentecost".

But our leadership felt no pressure to adjust the saints we "believe in." No removal of saints, no major adjustments to the calendar.

This brings up a common thought offered— if we don't name our own saints as a denomination, do we still honor saints that were beatified and canonized by other churches since the organization of the Polish National Catholic Church in 1897? The answer is yes, simply because there is no reason not to—a saint is a saint.

The mystery of Valentine...In European countries, as in North America, St.

Valentine is very much the "patron saint of lovers."

Historians have speculated that St. Valentine came to be given this title because his feast day fell around the time of Lupercalia, a pagan Roman festival of carnal love that later took on a more Christian character as well as the saint's name.

At least one St. Valentine existed, evidenced in ancient writings. The "Roman Martyrology" mentions two St. Valentines, one a priest and one a bishop. Both were put to death on the Flaminian Way (where Constantine would one day be converted by a vision of the Chi-Ro) on a Feb. 14 between 269 and 273, although some scholars have ar-

gued that well...maybe these two saints are the same person.

According to tradition, St. Valentine also cared deeply for the young: He taught lovers to read and write letters to one another, presented flowers to newlyweds and helped married couples in difficulties.

And of Cupid? A little combination of Greek and Roman Mythology presented a god-like cherubic form that shot golden love arrows at his mother's beckoning...mix some church tradition with local mythology upon eradicating an old festival and voila! The legend of St. Valentine grew long after he walked the earth as Saint.

Deacon Jim Leads Sunday Worship

As pockets of travel hit our pastor, Fr. Jason, Deacon Jim was called upon to lead services 3 times this month. Twice on weekdays – with the first being January 1st and the second January 31st and once on a Sunday, January 30.

It was Deacon Jim's first time leading "A Service of Worship and Holy Communion" for St. Mary's Sunday worship on a Sunday morning. After asking around, it seems that this very well may

have been the first time this has ever taken place. St. Mary's has been blessed with local priests willing to

step in to celebrate Holy Mass throughout most of its history. With Fr. Greg remaining unavailable, this was the course of action taken.

Deacon was able to preach on the continuing message that Christ gave in St. Luke's Holy Gospel upon informing his fellow Nazoreans that the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah has come true in them hearing those words that day.



Fr. Jason on the Road

On Saturday, January 29, Fr. Jason served as guest celebrant of Holy Mass at Divine Mercy Parish in Las Vegas, NV. Much like our major renovations back in 2015 before our 100th Anniversary, the parish is going through a major remodel, with Holy Mass taking place in the parish hall.

A team of people welcomed Fr. Jason (and brother-in-law Paul) to the parish and helped make sure we were comfortable and prepared for Holy Mass. After Mass, many families came forth for a blessing and a prayer before leaving for the evening. Fr. Adam Kotas serves as pastor of Divine Mercy, which is the newest parish of the PNCC.



Pick-a-Number

The Christmas tree Pick-A-Number fundraiser took place from December 2021 to January 31, 2022. We made a profit of \$840.

The raffle prizes were donated by Steve Fesz, Patti Dotson, Jo Ann Long, Mike & Barb Wisniewski, and Susan Boehnlein. Prizes were won by the Avondets, Josephine Ference, Greg Hodor, Jo Ann Long, Cathy Mallchok, Roland P, Gail Perz, Makenzie Petrella, Elaine Ploskonka, the Repedes, Edyta Schwartz, Brady Soltysiak, Patty Temesi, Jeffery Tiffe, the Wisniewskis, George Ziefle.

"Anonymous" also won but since the person is anonymous the prize was awarded to someone else! Thank you to all who supported the fundraiser benefiting our church.



Have King, Will Travel!

We at St. Mary's are pleased to report that our local Magi (Kaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) made the excruciating 12 day journey across St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church, which began on Christmas Day, 2021.

The expedition began upon Mary's Altar, with travel slowed by the masks they were forced to wear due

to the spread of Covid within our parish. But, upon realizing their luggage were accessories and non-vital, travel became a breeze. They were able to traverse a number of pitfalls and chasms as they trekked across the Sanctuary, including a close call with Greg Hodor on Sunday, January 2. With just days left on the voyage, Greg ran out of real estate to place the col-

lection basket during 9am Mass, placing the 3 in momentary peril in front of the lectern.

Cooler heads prevailed and the men made it to the manger in time for Mass on the Solemnity of Epiphany to greet the Child. They stayed for a few weeks until Mary politely asked them to leave. :-)



Parish Officers Sworn-in

On Sunday, January 23, the parish officers who were duly elected at our December 12 parish meeting were sworn in at the 9am Mass. As we petitioned God for our needs, we called upon Him during our prayers of intercession as well as for all elected to come forward. Fr. Jason led the various prayers and called all in church, elected and otherwise, as wit-

nesses to the oath of office that was taking place.

After all had taken the oath, they were blessed in the Trinity as well as with Holy Water. Those elected to

serve on the parish committee were then called into action immediately following the 9am Mass for the first monthly meeting of the new committee.



Student Spotlight

Damion, one of our faithful acolytes, is a Cadet Airman with the Ohio Civil Air Patrol. He and his 5 man team participated in the nationwide Civil Air Patrol Patriot Cyber Forensics competition. Damion and his teammates won 1st place amongst the Ohio participants and were 47th across the United States.

Damion attends Parma Senior High School and has been invited to take honors biology and history classes. He has been recommended to take honors speech and debate.



Makenzie, one of our other faithful acolytes, has been awarded a \$1000 scholarship to attend Padua Franciscan High School this Fall.

Choir member, Marzena, attends St. Joseph Academy. In addition to hearing her beautiful voice on Sundays she is part of the St. Joseph's Choral group whose focus is reading music, vocal technique, theory, ear training, history, sight-singing and ensemble choirs.

**GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH YOU YET
HE IS STILL PUTTING YOUR LIFE IN PLACE
JUST THE WAY HE PLANNED IT
DON'T WORRY**

Thank you!

After the very quick, heavy, January 16th storm our sidewalks were so bad George donated to have the sidewalks professionally cleaned making it easier to keep up with future snow removal.

Thank you to George Ziefle, Jim Boehnlein

and Steve Fesz for replacing the carburetor and belt for the snow blower. Damion, George and Jim spent several days and hours snow blowing St. Mary's sidewalks so we could avoid hefty fines from the City of Parma.

Graduation Note:

Jessica Moritz graduated from Case Western Reserve University in December 2021. She achieved two graduate degrees: a Master of Social Work (MSW) and a Master of Nonprofit Organizations from the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. In addition to her graduate studies, she completed two field education social work internships. She will soon be taking the Ohio exam for her Licensed Social Worker (LSW) certification.

Jessica has started a full-time position as a Direct Services Caseworker for the Lorain County Children Services, fulfilling her education goal and following her passion to be an agent for change.

Jessica is the daughter of Pete & Debbie Moritz and the granddaughter of Bill & the late Joan Kastak.



Matthew 6: 25-27: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"



In Remembrance

Barbara Baranowski (1932-2022) (nee Dende), age 88, passed away on January 10, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Kazimer. Loving mother of Michael Baranowski (Kimberly). Cherished sister of Christine Norman (Forrest)(both deceased). Dear aunt and great aunt. Bar-

bara was a graduate of Case Western Reserve University, Phi Beta Kappa, and Junior High School English teacher for Cleveland Public Schools. She loved gardening, dogs, and Charles Dickens. She was a longtime member of St. Mary's. A private service was held at Yurch Funeral Home.



Various Announcements

WE WELCOMED Boy Scout Troop 319, to our Mass February 6 in honor of Scout Sunday. This is a special inter-faith day set aside by the Scouting movement for all Scouts to reflect on their acknowledgement of duty to God in the Scout Oath or Promise and the 12th point of Scout Law - *A Scout is Reverent*. Our altar server, Damion, is a member of this Troop.

ENVELOPES – Parish envelopes are available and we would love if you picked them up today. If you know anyone or drive by anyone whose envelopes remain, please deliver them so we don't have to send them in the mail!

SUPERBOWL SQUARES – Wow, the home team is in the Super Bowl, who would've thought?! Well, a team in our home state- for the first time since

1989...which feels like a dozen years ago, but I assure you it is 33 years! The big game is here- Please see Ron Ference after Mass today to buy a few squares for our YMSofR fundraiser.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP – Info for scholarships from the National United Choirs is available by talking to Chris Paulus or Deacon Jim. Info is also posted on the bulletin boards near the mailboxes.

RECTORY AVAILABLE – The rectory is available for rental. It is a 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath 2 story bungalow and we want to offer it to parishioners and friends/family/acquaintances of parishioners first. Please speak to Fr. Jason or Susan Boehnlein with info.

PARISH EMAILS- Has anyone not been receiving emails from the parish/Fr. Jason on a periodic basis that would like to? Or, if you used to and do not any-

more? Please let him know so our email lists can be appropriately updated.

INSTALLATION OF PARISH OFFICERS

Thank you to all who participated in our installation, either as one elected or as a witness to the event. It is quite the responsibility, and we give God great praise for those taking on the ministry of church administration.

MISSION & EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

The 2022 M & E Workshop will be held at our sister parish, Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI April 1-3. We hope that many from our parish consider attending some of the days to support a parish in our Seniorate.

SCHEDULING MASSES –Masses are open to be scheduled for 2022. Some dates have been filled, so if there is a date you normally keep, please speak to Fr. Jason in person, via email, or by phone.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

February 6– Sophie & Martin Szpilka of. by son John Spilka

February 13– Baptism of Vicente Jr.

February 20– Lillian Ploskonka & Kenny Ploskonka of. by family

February 27 – Walter Stepanik of. by son Gene Stepanik

March 6– Robert “Bob” Bernacki of. by friends

March 13– Open Intention—Institution of PNCC

March 20– Joan Spilka of. by husband John

March 27 – Dorothy Tracy of. by son Randy



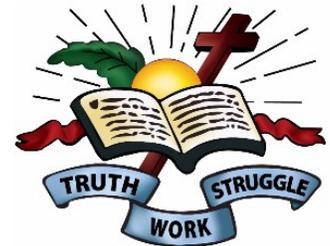
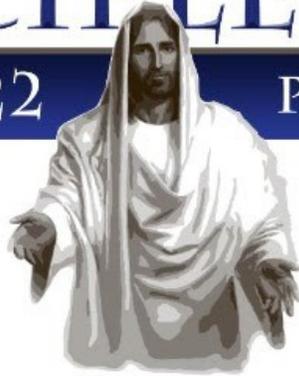
Please reach out to Fr. Jason to schedule Masses – Open upcoming dates: March 13, May 1, May 29

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2022

PNCC



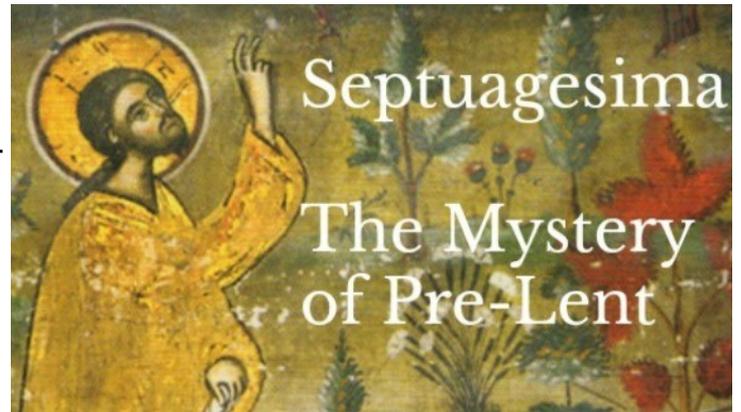
February 2022 – PNCC Pre-Lenten Spiritual Preparation Program

On Sunday February 13th we begin the season of Pre-Lent in our Polish National Catholic Church. This year as we continue our focus on *Being Eucharistic People*, a Spiritual Preparation Program has been prepared for this season by Fr. Dr. Scott Lill.

[Here is a short video reflection by Fr. Lill.](#)

Reflection and Action Item:

Use "The Season of Pre-Lent: A Time of Preparation for Polish National Catholics" booklet beginning on Septuagesima Sunday – February 13th. Make this a spiritually uplifting time to properly prepare for the upcoming Lenten journey.



[Click Here](#) to view and download the booklet: The Season of Pre-Lent: A Time of Preparation for Polish National Catholics

Prayer for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love! Grant, O merciful Father, that your Divine Spirit may enlighten, inflame and purify me; that He may penetrate me with His heavenly dew and make me fruitful in good works. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who with You, in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PNCC Future Direction on Facebook. Like, follow and share our reflections on Facebook. 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. May God bless you; may our Lord calm the storms of life, may our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph intercede for us. Let us use this beautiful Pre-Lenten Spiritual Preparation program to strengthen our lives in faithful witness and action following the teachings and example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

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

February Days of Note



February Birthdays

- 2nd – Mrs. Andrea Grmovsek
- 3rd – Carole D'Arcy
- 5th – George Bennett
- 7th – Claire Hunek
- 8th – Pollyanna Gajda
- 11th – Astrid Wisniewski
- 12th – Jay Jurczyk
- 13th – Matthew Moritz
- 16th - Owen Arnold
- 18th - Karen Bedocs
- 18th - Maximilian Ploskonka
- 19th - Richard Sosenko
- 22nd – Amy Dreger
- 23rd – Joyce Knapp
- 25th – Fr. Greg Gronn
- 26th – Walker Ploskonka
- 28th - Tom Putynski

February Anniversaries

- 14th – Ron & Nancy Roharik



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

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our YouTube channel

"St. Valentine's Sonnet"

Why should this martyr
be the saint of love?
A quiet man
of unexpected courage,
A celibate
who celebrated marriage,
An ageing priest
with nothing left to prove,
He loved the young
and made their plight his cause.
He called for fruitfulness,
not waste in wars,
He found a sure foundation,
stood his ground,
And gave his life to guard
the love he'd found.

Why should this martyr
be our Valentine?
Perhaps because
he kept his covenant,
Perhaps because,
with prayer still resonant,
He pledged the Bridegroom's
love in holy wine,
Perhaps because
the echo of his name
Can kindle love again
to living flame.

By Malcolm Guite

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Bob Kaczmarek
Bill Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
George & Linda Makovicka	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Julie L.
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Joseph Bischoff
David Micka	Carol Hreha
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	David Vaden
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
Al Piniecki	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Tom Slomka
Gerl S.	Ben Soltis
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Kelly B	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Wisniewski	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Bp. John Mack
Mike Pescitelli	Mike Paulus
Mary Cawley	Richard & Edna Samelson
Jim Giles	Tammy Teubl
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Azriel G.	Joseph Zubel
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Shannon Alberino
Jayden Pieciak	Sophie Mae
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Kim Penney
Barbara B.	Patrick Kmitt
Michael McGivern	Daniel Morgan
Barb & Jim Lukas	Renee Lukas
Mike Matis	Jeff Lukas
Kathy Robertson	Shawna

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

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