

# St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

**April 2021**

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## Easter Continued

I really enjoyed preaching on Easter Sunday and the "follow-up", which was the Second Sunday of Easter. As I often (but not always) do when we enter in a new liturgical season, I try to connect portions of the Gospel passage from the previous week to the current week, or even hint towards the upcoming week.

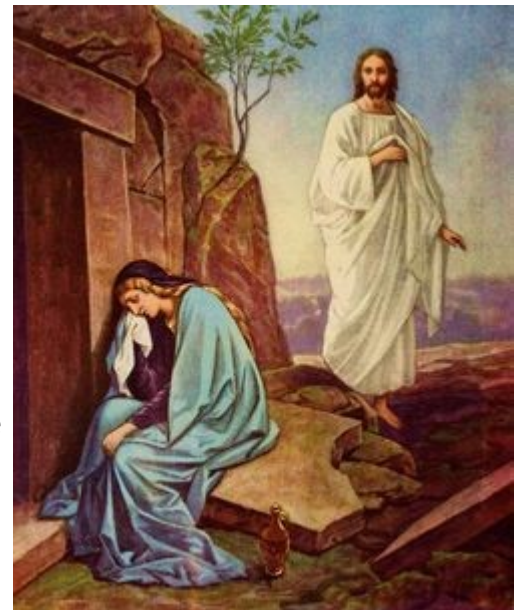
The famous Easter Gospel is from John, Chapter 20, verse 1-9. The less-famous-but-still-pretty-famous 2nd Sunday of Easter Gospel, the Doubting Thomas Gospel, is once again John 20, verse 19-31.

Did you catch that above? Though verse 19 begins on the latter part of the day on Resurrection Sunday, it *does* skip over 10 verses of scripture.

And you know, those are a pretty secretive bunch of verses of scripture on the Catholic calendar and in the lec-

tionary. In fact, they only come up twice a year— the Tuesday after Easter/the Tuesday within the Octave of Easter and the July 22 Feast of Mary Magdalene.

Here is what the scripture says: "Then the disciples returned to their homes. Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the Body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary went and



announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and then reported what he had told her."

It really is a beautiful passage for us believers. Mary goes from weeping (as the angels point out first, as does Jesus next) to joy in just five verses. For us readers, some wonderful, dramatic tension is formed—the angels know something that Mary Magdalene doesn't. Though we are told that it was Jesus speaking to her, she is kept from knowing this. Her thought that this might've been the gardener could almost seem comedic, save for the circumstances.

The "aha!" moment comes from Jesus speaking Mary's name, proba-

### Fr. Jason's Article (con't)

bly in a tone or with inflection unique to their relationship. Simply— she recognized his voice. She responds by saying “rabbouni”, in a similar way representing their relationship. It is the 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) Gospel “my sheep know my voice” come to life and in action.

All of this sounds neat, doesn't it? Doesn't this seem like this should at least be in the “Sunday rotation” for Gospel passages, things we can hear and preach about?

Well, for a few reasons, it is not. Some of the reasons include the church shying away from Mary of Magdala, the varied Evangelist reports from the Resurrection (see Mark 16:2-11, Luke 24:1-8, Matthew 28:1-10), and how the “schedule” of the Sundays of Easter is pretty well-filled already. There is a lot of good

Resurrected Jesus “stuff” ...some things just don't make the cut.

I say that not to diminish the truth and power of the Gospel by any means at all. Personally, I love these verses— they seem so real and human. Of course Mary Magdalene was weeping, finally approaching the grave. The previous day (Holy Saturday, as we know) was the Sabbath, meaning that she wouldn't have been able to approach the grave until this hour of this day— it was intensely emotional.

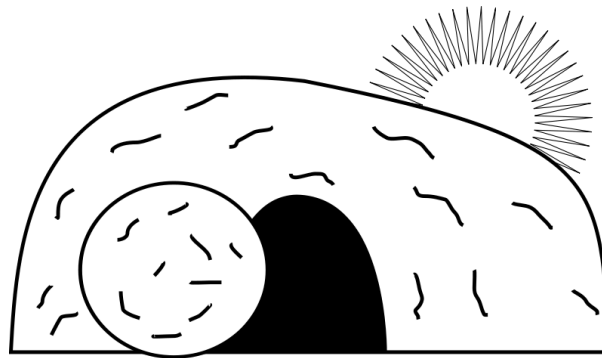
Crying messes with your vision too, right? And that heavy, heaving crying from a total loss? The entire body is off-kilter. Throw in not one, not two, but three people asking you

why you are weeping, and you're probably not processing things as clearly as you would like!

And finally, the most important point— of course she thought that Jesus was the gardener, or anyone else in the world besides Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was dead, in that tomb, sealed behind a stone that she watched get rolled at that spot days ago. Human history told her she has no reason to expect anything else.

Jesus tells her after not to touch him, and his appearance before the disciples, showing up in a locked room later that night tells us that, well, His resurrected, glorified Body was on a completely different plane of existence compared to anything else.

A somewhat veiled portion of the Resurrection narrative...hopefully allowing you to enjoy His victory just a little more this Easter. *Fr. Jason*



### Pierogi Making

On Saturday, March 6, a great crowd of volunteers gathered for our first pierogi making in quite a while! While following CDC guidelines, our devoted friends came to roll, fold, pinch, and cook dozens of pierogi in preparation of a Lenten pierogi drive-thru dinner as well as a frozen pierogi food sale in advance of Easter.





### Parish Lenten Drive-Thru #2 & #3

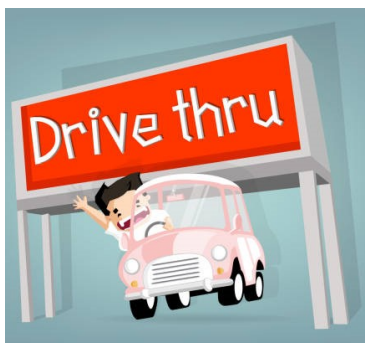
The month of March featured our second and third of three Lenten Dinners.

On Friday, March 12, we had our second Fish Fry drive-thru of Lent. It was well-received and a delicious follow up to the one that took place two weeks earlier. Thanks to George Ziefle for leading the fish frys this year.

Friday, March 26 featured our pierogi dinner drive thru. Supported by a cup of soup, applesauce, and more, it was quite successful. We give thanks to

Susan Boehnlein and Patti Dotson for co-leading this endeavor.

All-in-all, we served about 400 dinners during the Lenten Season and sold some frozen pierogi too. God bless all of our volunteers and patrons.





### Lenten Liturgies

The Season of Great Lent calls for increased prayer, devotion, fasting, and alms-giving.

St. Mary's provides avenues for all of this in offering six consecutive Friday evenings of devotionals during the Lenten Season. This includes the full, 3-part service of Sorrowful Lamentations/ Gorzkie Zale and the Stations of the Cross using three different settings/ interpretations.

As we removed the Benediction/ Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 1st Sundays of the month after Mass, we have integrated it in our various devotions during the year, including once at Stations of the Cross and once at Sorrowful Lamentations.

In guided almsgiving, the parish also had a 6 week collection of food items that have been collated for our own giving at St. Mary's and for the Parma Hunger Center, located at Parma Lutheran across the street.

Our Sunday celebrations during Lent were a bit muted, with the Gloria and Alleluias removed and a focus on the case being formed against Christ by the Jewish people and his acts during His ministry before His crucifixion.

We give great thanks for the support granted us throughout the entirety of the Lenten Season.





### Chrism Mass

Fr. Jason and Deacon Jim were so elegantly chauffeured to Chicago, IL for the Blessing of Holy Oils at the Diocesan Chrism Mass by parish chairperson, Elaine Ploskonka.

As the Mass took place at 5pm on Holy Tuesday, March 30, the trip began early that morning and the group left Chicago early the following morning.

The Mass of Chrism is a Mass written for the Bishop of the Diocese to celebrate with his priests, honoring and examining the priesthood. Of course, others are encouraged to attend and participate in support of the clergy.

This was Bishop Jaroslaw Rafalko's first Chrism Mass celebrated since he was Consecrated to the Office of Bishop in September of 2020. It is one of the joys of a bishop to celebrate with his priests for his diocese.

The key element of the Mass is the consecration of Holy Oils. This is done by the bishop for the faithful of the diocese, aided by the prayers of his priests. These oils are then presented at the Holy Thursday evening Mass for use at the parish.

Father Jason served as a concelebrant of the Mass while Deacon Jim served as a Master of Ceremony.





### Gwen's Baptism

The baptism of baby Gwen took place at the 9am Holy Mass on the 3rd Sunday of Lent, March 7 at St. Mary's.

It was a beautiful morning and a large turnout of friends and family supported

baby Gwen throughout her receiving this important Sacrament of the Church. She never showed any nerves, as she calmly invited the Holy Spirit into her life and gave the camera a nice looksee (held by her God-mother Amelia) before receiving the waters of Baptism.

God bless Gwen as she has begun her Christian journey!



### Vaccination Presentation

Dr. Natalie Soltysiak, PharmD gave a presentation on Sunday, March 14 after Holy Mass on vaccines.

A pharmacist for nearly a decade, she gave background information on vaccines, highlighting the 3 major vaccines available in the United States to attempt to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

She emphasized that there are no live vaccines, spoke on some of the risks, and hit on that these vaccines were in works for years before the pandemic even hit.

She then took questions for about 25 minutes. We give thanks for her knowledge shared with us at St. Mary's.





### Food Ministry

The weekly Food Ministry rolls on! After exceeding 10,000 meals served some weeks back, there has been a

recent increase in the amount of meals served.

Among the favorites is French bread pizza. As we get a weekly delivery from Panera to help shape our ministry, we freeze the appropriate breads

until we have enough to make an entire meal worth of pizza—and voila! It is the meal everyone clamors for!



### Various Announcements

**EASTER** – The Easter Season begins with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days, until the day of Pentecost, this year May 23. The length of the celebration reminds us of the importance of this season and the importance of the Resurrection event in the story of our salvation. Please keep your Easter spirit strong over these next few weeks, as we remain standing throughout the Canon/Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, as we add extra “alleluias” throughout the liturgy, and as our lilies and Easter decorations stand out in our church proper.

**PARISH CLEAN-UP DAY**—As decided at our recent Parish Committee Meeting, the parish will host a property clean-up day at 9am on Saturday, April 24, with a rain date of May 8. We plan on getting a truckful of mulch, trimming bushes and trees, cleaning trash, weeding, and more. Lunch is provided! Bring your own gloves, and any extra wheelbarrows and hedgetrimmers would be

great. Cathy Avondet is coordinating the effort and may be reached at 440-842-1212 with any questions.

**CANON/EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**- Today, and for the entire month of April, we use the 4th Eucharistic Prayer on page 88.

**POLISH PARADE** – The parade for Polish Constitution Day has been postponed this year. Hopes for next year!

**LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION** –Thanks to all who donated towards our Lenten Food Collection. It was a very successful collection, which allowed us to stock our pantry as well as prepare a sizable donation to the Parma Hunger Center.

**LOVE OF GOD SODALITY** – As vaccinations have come for many, it is time for our parish organizations to come together for the work and devotion of our Lord and Savior once again! President Patty Temesi has called a Love of God Sodality Meeting for Monday, May 2 after 9am Holy Mass. Any ladies of the parish who have not attended a Sodality meeting before are welcome.

**MAY DEVOTIONS** – May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated each Wednesday in May, beginning on May 5 in Polish (May 12 & 26 in English, 19 in Polish). Please consider attending these Eucharistic Devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother, patroness of our Parish. It is an opportunity to see one of the unique liturgies of the church: Litany, Exposition, a short procession, all in about 30 minutes.

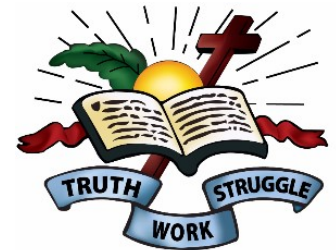
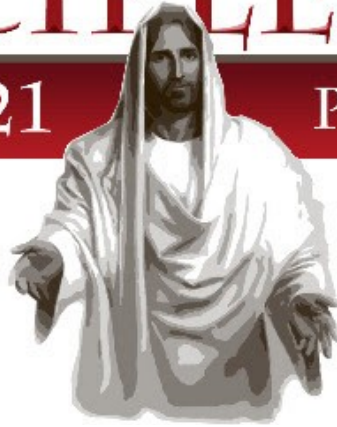
**MISSION & EVANGELISM VIRTUAL WORKSHOP** – The PNCC has announced the National Mission & Evangelism Workshop will be virtual this year, taking place Friday April 30 & Saturday, May 1 on the Zoom platform. There are only about 5 hours of “meeting time” over those days so as not to overwhelm anyone with screen time. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> iteration of the Workshop, and this year’s theme is titled “Discovering the P.N.C.C.” There is no cost, but registration is required – please do so by April 26 by emailing [fr.j.nowak@gmail.com](mailto:fr.j.nowak@gmail.com). Fr. Jason will be presenting for a short time –info is posted on his office door.

PNCC Future Directions Update

# DISCIPLESHIP

2021

PNCC



## April 2021 – Mother Teresa

During the month of April, we focus on Mother Teresa a faithful disciple of our Lord who lived her life in a beautiful way showing unconditional love. Laurie Dionisio of Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA gives an inspiring reflection on this amazing disciple of our Lord and how we can do small things with great love!

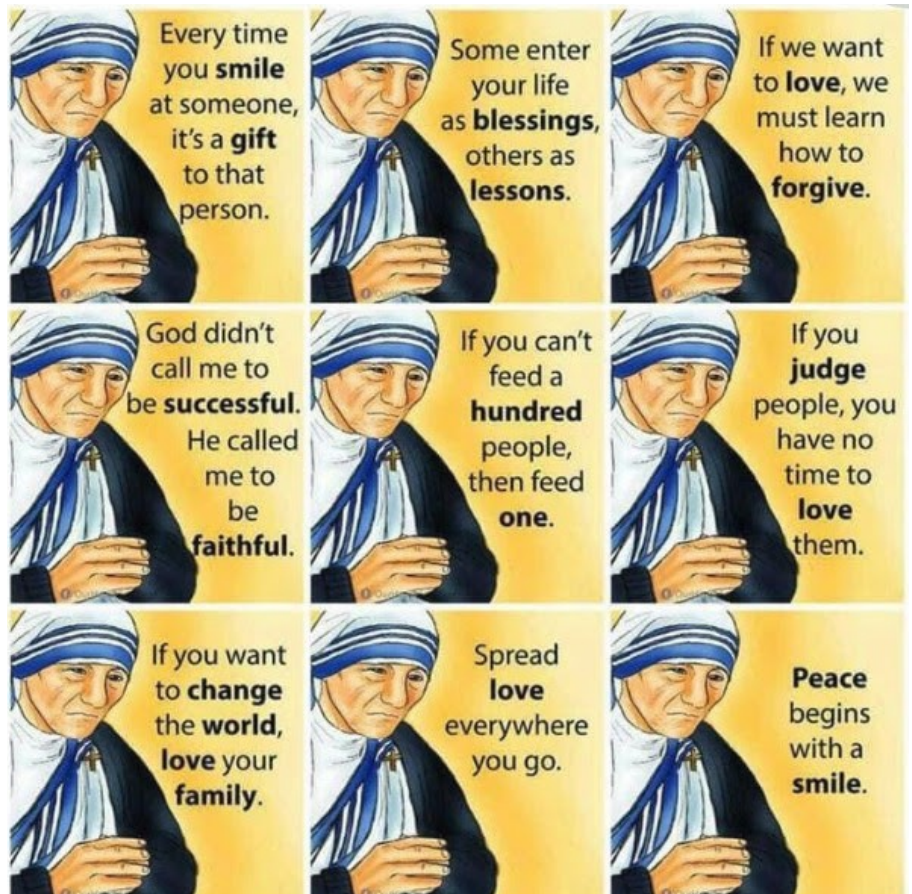
[Click Here to watch a short video message on Mother Teresa by Laurie Dionisio of Blessed Trinity PNCC Fall River](#) (or visit PNCC Future Direction on Youtube)

### Scriptures for Reflection

Matthew Chapter 25

#### Reflection & Action Item:

Mother Teresa lived her life challenging and inviting others to do something beautiful for God. There is so much going on in our lives that takes us in so many directions many times focusing on things that matter the least, but the example of Mother Teresa's life and efforts call us not to lose sight of what matters the most. She lived performing small acts of kindness with great love for all people – especially the poor and marginalized. Her lifestyle has made her one of the most beloved women in history and an icon of goodness. In following her great example living each day doing acts of kindness with love we can become more faithful disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.





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Perform at least three acts of kindness to help people who are homeless or support a cause that will support them. This can be done with either your time, talent or treasure. Let this help us to see Jesus in those who are less fortunate than we.

### Song Recommendation: "Above All" by Lenny LeBlanc

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\\_cxhf5ISeg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_cxhf5ISeg)

### 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 our country and 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 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](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

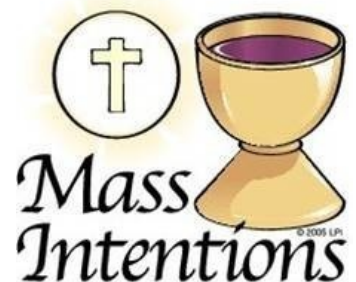
Wishing you and your family a Easter Season walking with on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, sharing in the joy of Resurrection. May God bless you; may our Lord calm this storm and may our Blessed Mother intercede for us. Have a blessed day and be safe, careful, healthy and faithful as disciples!

### PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony 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



### Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

- April 4 – No Intentions taken—Happy Easter!
  - April 11 – Raymond J. Kovach Jr. of. by Cheryl Repko
  - April 18 – Rose, Walter, & Edward Franczak of. by John Spilka
  - April 25 – Bob Hunek of. by wife Claire
  - May 2 – Stanley & Yolanta Kwiatek of. by John Spilka
  - 10:30: Open Intention
  - May 9 – Ruth Dobrowolski of. by daughter Patti Dotson
  - May 16 – Anthony Soltysiak (1st An.) of. by brother Rev. Jason Soltysiak
  - May 23 – Hanna Pryer of. by husband Len & family
  - May 30 – John Paul Repko of. by daughter Cheryl Repko
- \*Next open 9am dates: June 20, 27, July 4, August 8, 15, 29

## April Days of Note



### April Birthdays

7 <sup>th</sup>	— Helen Wankowski
12 <sup>th</sup>	— Michael Oleniacz
14 <sup>th</sup>	— Karen Barnes
17 <sup>th</sup>	— Robert Mondok
18 <sup>th</sup>	— Megan Kasperczyk
20 <sup>th</sup>	— Sheri Ference
22 <sup>nd</sup>	— Julie Koehler
25 <sup>th</sup>	— Marilyn Burger
27 <sup>th</sup>	— Natalie Kasperczyk
29 <sup>th</sup>	— Nick Sivik



### April Anniversaries

1 <sup>st</sup>	— Tom & Karen Bedocs
28 <sup>th</sup>	— Zbigniew & Elizabeth Staranowski

## "Easter Day "

The silver trumpets rang  
across the Dome:  
The people knelt upon  
the ground with awe:  
And borne upon the  
necks of men I saw,  
Like some great God,  
the Holy Lord of Rome.  
Priest-like, he wore a robe  
more white than foam,  
And, king-like,  
swathed himself in royal red,  
Three crowns of gold  
rose high upon his head:  
In splendour and in light  
the Pope passed home.  
My heart stole back across  
wide wastes of years  
To One who wandered  
by a lonely sea,  
And sought in vain  
for any place of rest:  
'Foxes have holes,  
and every bird its nest,  
I, only I, must wander wearily,  
And bruise my feet,  
and drink wine salt with tears.'

## Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)



## 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	Ralph Crispino
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
Geri 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-
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 Lukas	Renee Lukas
Mike Matis	Leslie Rafalko
Ronald & Elaine Tiffe	Mike Pescitelli
Bill Walo	Janice Bielecki
Bob Kaczmarek	

### WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

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