

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2017

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Saint Luke

As this newsletter makes it out for the middle of October or so, it should meet your eyes before the Feast of St. Luke, the Apostle and Evangelist on October 18th.

When Catholics hear “St. Luke”, their minds jump to “A reading from the Holy Gospel according to...” And, if you asked the normal worshipper what they knew about St. Luke, not much would be known beyond “he wrote one of the gospels.”

St. Luke's Gospel is prominent during the third Liturgical Year, Year C. If we recall, the Liturgical Year begins anew every Advent. It will be Advent of 2018 when we predominantly hear from Luke most weeks.

Luke's Gospel is also most evident and best known during the Christmas Season. He provides the most detail about the story of the Christ's birth, including the Gospel at *Pasterka*, Midnight or Shepherd's Mass.

But what do we know about the man, Luke? We do know that he was a bit late to the party. He wasn't one of the



original twelve apostles, a mistake commonly made. He was converted by Saint Paul, whom he then accompanied until Paul's martyrdom.

In addition to having the rare (for its time) ability to write, he was also a talented painter, and his profession was that of a physician. Yup, a doctor. In the original Greek that he wrote his Gospel in, many of the terms he used to describe certain things would be something that only a doctor would ever say (think “deltoid” rather than “shoulder muscle” or “incision” rather than “cut”).

It is thought that Paul befriended and converted Luke because he needed a doctor! After his conversion from evil Saul to Paul, his body wasn't working like it used to. Though he boasted of his weakness, rather than his glory...he took quite the beating. See [2nd Corinthians, 2:24-30](#).

Since Luke begins his Gospel of Jesus with the sacrifice offered by Zechariah, his Evangelistic emblem is the ox. One of the neat things about Christian art is

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since we *really* don't know what these people looked like, they are assigned different...things. Things that they wear, hold in their hand, or are pictured with. Luke will often have an ox present, tools a physician would use are often lying around, and, due to his focus on Mary in the Gospel and ability to paint, is often shown painting her, a 2nd Century tradition that endures.

Where Luke has a larger impact is the fact that he never stopped evangelizing. He didn't just write a book and retire—he preached it with Paul and, even after witnessing his friend get killed, continued to preach and spread the Good News in Egypt and Greece...tough places to do so.

So, on October 18, let us pray for our doctors, painters, people named Luke, and all will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ that day. *Fr. Jason*



Clerical Elevation of James Ploskonka

At a 6pm service on Friday, September 15, 2017, student James Ploskonka received his first Minor Orders on his journey to become a Deacon in the Polish National Catholic Church.

Cleric Jim has been in the Diaconate Program for over a year, having taken liturgy, scripture, and church history classes while also going through a practicum with Father Jason.

Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Bishop-Ordinary of the Western Diocese as well as mem-

bers of the Diaconate Program made the decision to grant him the Tonsure as well as the Minor Orders of Porter, Lector, and Blesser.

Bishop Bilinski led our prayer service, which consisted of the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Litany to the Most Blessed Sacrament, the tonsure and conferral of Minor Orders, and the Liturgy of the Word of God.

After conferring the Orders, Bishop Bilinski called upon everyone present as

witnesses and even assistants to Cleric Jim's growth towards the Diaconate. He implored everyone to give him progress reports on his service to the parish as well as on Christ's altar.

We thank Bishop for making the trip to Parma to confer the Orders, as well as to Father John Cramer, who is in charge of the Diaconate Program for our diocese and who served as Arch-Deacon of the service. Further thanks to our trusty talented parish photographer, Gene Stepanik, to Cleric Jim's wife Elaine (and

friends) for putting together a refreshing spread after the service, and to all who attended the service. If you weren't able to attend the service and would like to see a video of it, it was recorded in its entirety by David Micka and posted on Facebook.

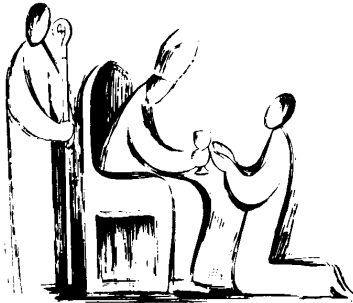
May we keep Cleric Jim in our prayers as he works to further his relationship with God and his parish. Over the next couple of years, he will be working towards the minor order of Acolyte, then Sub-Deacon, and finally, Deacon.



Top left to bottom:
1-Tonsure; 2-
Surplice Investiture;
3-Order of Porter.

Top right to bottom:
1- Order of Lector;
2- Order of Blesser;
3- Bishop Bilinski
preaches

Clerical Elevation of James Ploskonka (continued)



Various Announcements

Women's Conference

A women's retreat will be taking place October 18-21 in Erie, PA, sponsored by the National Society Board of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Entitled, "Who Am I?", it is open to PNCC women age 16+. Please keep our women in prayer as they attend this conference

Chili Cook-Off

YMSofR Branch #29's Chili Cookoff takes place after 11am Mass on Sunday, October 15. Enter your chili and watch the home Brownies battle the Texans. There are door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Prizes for best traditional & non-traditional chili will be awarded. For info, see Ron Ference or call him 216-577-1062.

Craft Fair

The Annual Autumn Craft Fair takes place on Saturday, November 11

from 10am-4pm. Info is on the bulletin board, our website and facebook page. Tables are available at \$30 for the 8 foot rectangles or \$25 for the round. See Mary Ann Kasperczyk after Mass or email mkasper6@yahoo.com.

YMSofR Branch #29 Soup Sale

The YMSofR Soup Sale takes place alongside the Craft Fair. We ask you take containers (available in the Hall) home and, before Nov. 11th, cook a batch of your favorite soup, put it in a labelled container, and donate to church. Soups can be brought fresh or frozen.

Operation Christmas Child

Our collection will begin shortly. Though it seems early, boxes are shipped November 13th. A reminder- boxes filled with gifts, school supplies, etc. & assembled by age/gender and delivered to a child in need somewhere in the world. \$9 must be included with each box, or

a no-box, \$9 donation can be made.

Polish Language Class

The first Polish Language class takes place this Monday, Oct. 16th at 6:30pm. It is open to all abilities – the teacher will be doing an introduction followed by the basics. There is a cost for the class – we just need to make sure that the teacher's time is taken care of. We'll call it a "love offering".

Classes will continue each week throughout the normal academic year.

All Souls Day

All Souls Day takes place on Thursday, November 2nd. Envelopes are now available around the church for you to fill out and remember your loved ones. They can be dropped in the basket or given to Fr. Jason. All submitted names will be remembered in prayer at Holy Mass on All Souls Day as well as during Sunday Masses in the month of November. Also, the cemetery service takes place Nov. 5 at 1pm at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery.

Baby Shower

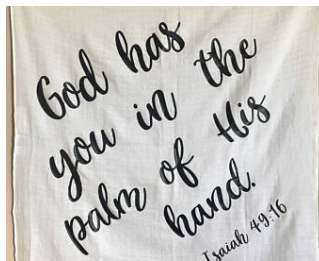
The Love of God Sodality graciously held a Baby Shower for Baby Soltysiak, due November 2017.

They invited the women of the parish to attend the shower on Sunday, September 24. Many came—about 30(!) to shower the mommy-to-be (and later, daddy-to-be) with gifts, play games, and to have a quick bite to eat as well.



In preparation, the Sodality met the Friday before, September 22nd, to put together a gift on behalf of the Sodality made up of the tiniest diapers you could imagine. They made sure to kick Father Jason out of the church before he was able to see what they might have been putting together!

On behalf of my wonderful wife and soon-to-be son, many, many thanks for the support of the parish. Gifts are wonderful, but your words of comfort, encouragement, and prayers mean the world to us. We can't wait to add our new little parishioner in the next couple of weeks!



Cleric Jim's 1st Blessing

Timing is everything! As we've read about Cleric Jim receiving the Order of Blesser, it came to be that right after his orders, he was to become a grandfather once again!

There are blankets and shawls set aside to be blessed on an as-needed basis, and



Cleric Jim was called upon to use his voice and action to bring God's blessings upon the blanket.

With prayers in mind for the safety and health of mom-to-be, the patience and strength of dad-to-be, and the...everything!...for the grandson-to-be, Jim blessed the shawl in the Fellowship Hall on September 24th after the 9am Holy Mass.

Everyone was then called upon to come forward and lay their hands upon the blanket, offering their own prayers as well. Dozens of prayers were offered for the little

tyke by our parishioners and friends.

We're happy to say Mitch & Sarah Ploskonka are the proud parents of Roland Michael, born September 27th!



PNCC Future Directions September Update

October 1, 2017

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

During the month of October across our Polish National Catholic Church we celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family. In our culture we see fewer and fewer examples of a Christian Family, praying together and following the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are reminded during this month to strengthen our commitment to our faith and our individual family as well as our parish family.

In the book of Genesis we read about God as the Creator of all things, including the institution of the family. The very basic concept of family defines it as a husband and wife with one or more children. However, we know that this is not always the case in every family situation. For example, some families do not have a mother or a father present; and some families have a husband and wife, but no children. Even in regard to Jesus we realize that Mary is His mother and Joseph is His guardian. The importance of the family in society should not be underestimated, for that is where we learn and develop our basic moral values.

At the Third General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church in 1914 the delegates instituted the Solemnity of the Christian Family and selected the second Sunday of October to celebrate it. The Solemnity of the Christian Family commemorates the values of the Holy Family and how we should apply these values to our own families. The responsibility of children to respect, honor and love their parents is found in the Bible. It is important for each of us to remember the Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and mother. Love and respect of parents toward their children is also taught many times in Holy Scripture. Parents not only have a responsibility to provide for the physical and material needs of their children, they are entrusted to provide for their spiritual needs as well. The parents are to bring up their children in the Christian faith and should set a good example for the children to follow. Parents are to teach, guide and discipline their children in the love of the Lord. This solemnity reminds us of the importance of mutual love and respect within each Christian family.

Just as an individual family is part of society, the Christian family is part of a parish family, which is part of a larger family called the Church. The individual Christian families and the Church share a common faith in Christ and worship Him. This solemnity also reminds us that the Christian family is built on the foundation of Christ Jesus, our Lord. We become a part of the Christian Family in the Sacrament of Baptism, through which we are united with Christ and become brothers and sisters in Him.

The Church is essential to the Christian family because the family members encounter Christ in the parish community by participating in worship at Holy Mass, receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, hearing the Word of God and receiving the other sacraments.

During the special Mass for the Solemnity of the Christian Family we will pray:

God, our Heavenly Father, You have blessed each of us with the gift of family that through our family life we may learn to love and care for others. Open our eyes to recognize in all people the bonds of kinship. May we unselfishly serve them who with us have been made co-heirs with Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

October is also Clergy Appreciation Month. What have you done to show your appreciation to your Pastor? Do you pray for him and work with him for the proclamation of the Gospel?

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.

Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church. Also please keep in prayer our clergy of our church as they prepare for the National Clergy Conference in November.

May we show our commitment to our faith and family not just in our words, but more importantly buy our actions. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*

October Days of Note



October

- 5 - Eileen Evanoff
- 7 - Elaine Repede
- 10 - Greg Hodor
- 17 - Michael D'Arcy
- 23 - James Boehlein
- 25 - Bruce Bogzevitz
- 25 - Jim Nemec
- 30 - Krysta Kurzynski
- 31 - Marlane Oleniacz
- 31 - Patty Temesi



October

- 3- Jack & Lolly Spilka
- 4- Jeff & Amy Dreger
- 5- Pete & Debbie Moritz



**National Pierogi Day
October 8, 2017**

"When Autumn Leaves Begin to Fall"

When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all
Colors bursting with the sun
Rays shine down on everyone.

There is a leafy autumn smell
I walk on softness where they fell
Floating gently to the ground
Touching down without a sound.

Animal are scurrying to and fro
Instinctively the creatures know
The leaves scattered everywhere
Beautifies a place once bare.

Rising up to the bluest sky
A tree looks down, creaks a sigh
Nestled in her hollowed place
Life will wait through winter's race.

When the tress at last have shed
Sturdy branches though not dead
Beneath the earth roots hold tight
Tall and stately through the night.

When autumn leaves begin to fall
The Father orchestrates it all
Blooms in waiting seem to say
He is coming back someday.

Again dressed in a formal gown
Branches filled and hanging down
See the miracle of God once more
Birds leap from her branch to soar.

Here I stand in wonder of this
A soft wind blows to me a kiss
My spirit tells my mind to hush
Peace abounds in Christ for us.

The seasons change, come and go
But this is what I truly know
When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all.

By Kathleen Higham

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 | Kathleen Beres |
| Elaine Rzonca | Frank Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Louise Cygan |
| Chester & Helen Budney | Bruno Tracy |
| Chester & Ann Warzala | Tom Petrie |
| Gail Perz | Amy Dreger |

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 |
| Don and Pam Tropiano | Linda Vect |
| Dennis and Sue Vect | Marcus Vaughn, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzurhoff | Al Tomasello |
| Cherise Pacanovsky | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| Duda Family | Daniel Morgan |
| Nan Cramer | Bp. Stanley Bilinski |
| Bp. John Mack | David Vaden |
| Bp. John Swantek | Jeannie Bartko Muran |
| Johanna Markiewicz | Edna Samelson |
| Kim Blaha | Bill Chambers Sr. |
| Wanda Heffner | Geri S. |
| Donna Kidd | Colleen Howard |
| Muffie B. | Nancy Jablonowski |
| Marilyn Girard | Larry Hoekstra |
| Stephanie Milla | Rich Dombrowski |
| Shannon Alberino | Jayden Pieciak |
| Jeremy Steinbrick | Coleen Fisteck |
| Marcia Klein | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Mike Sikut | Larry Bernacki |

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Polly Gajda | Gene Mora |
|-------------|-----------|

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

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