

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

April 2023

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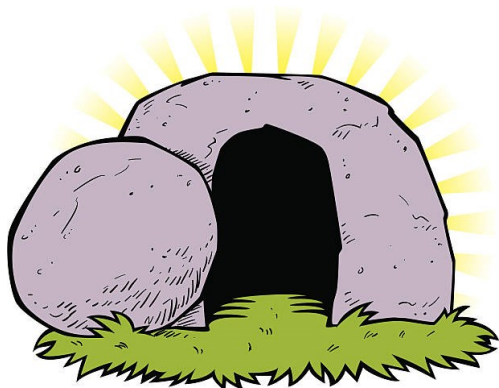
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Easter Traditions

By the time you read this, Easter Sunday will have come and gone, and we will be continuing to rejoice in the Risen Lord for a number of weeks. Our procession and most of our Easter liturgy took place at the 7am service...and for most of our people, this is how we have celebrated Easter our entire lives – empty grave, procession, the 3 symbols carried in procession...but, what if I told you this is not how it is done in the rest of the world?

Ok, first, lets walk a little more slowly through “what we do.” Our Easter morn-



ing liturgy is a culmination of The Triduum, which is the Mass of Holy Thursday, the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified on Good Friday, and the Liturgy of Holy Saturday. Everything that happens during those 3 services lead towards the opening moments of Easter Sunday, to the empty tomb and the removal of the tulle veil that is over the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance.

The procession on Easter is 3 times around the church, with stops at all four corners. The 3 times around the church represent Trinity and the portions of the 3 days Christ spent in the tomb. As monstrance's often resemble gothic structures with a sunburst motif, the 3 trips around the church represent the 3 days the sun went around the earth while Christ was in the tomb. The 4 stops represent the 4 gospel accounts of the Resurrection as well as the 4 corners of the world. At each stop, the celebrant proclaims “Through Your Holy Resurrection” and the choir responds “Christ, our Lord, Son of God, forgive us all our transgressions; for now You have risen from the dead; Life eternal has begun and death's battle You have won, through Your holy Strength, O Lord.”

Great! This was all I ever knew, growing up a Polish National Catholic in predominantly (at those times) Eastern-European towns in New England – it is kinda sorta what all the Catholics around there did. It wasn't until my time in Scranton after one Easter when I spoke to a parishioner from Puerto Rico who had, simply, no idea what he just was a part of on an Easter Sunday morning.

This same sort of adjustment has been taking place across the Polish National Catholic Church, where many parishes have been saved from closure by becoming Latino-focused parishes. There has been an influx of priests from the Roman Catholic Church in Mexico... who have never seen anything like “our” Easter Sunday morning tradition.

There is very little “extra” in the Roman Catholic Church on Easter Sunday morning – much of the fanfare is reserved for the Easter Vigil, which is (usually) a Saturday evening affair. The big difference is that the Baptismal Promise Renewal (done at the conclu-



Opening Article (Cont)

sion of our Holy Saturday liturgy) is permitted after the homily is in place of the Nicene Creed (since it takes on much of the Apostles Creed) and is followed by the "I saw Water/Wode Widzialem" sprinkling of the people with Holy Water.

That's kind of it- So the question is- what is the appropriate course of action for a priest or people new to the PNCC? First, I'm happy to admit that this is above my paygrade as a simple parish priest, but I find the issue (which ultimately lies with the chief liturgist of each diocese, the bishop-ordinary) fascinating.

I do serve on the National Liturgical Commission of the PNCC, and the proverbial

question we have debated is- do we shoehorn a traditional Eastern European cultural liturgy (the revealing of the tomb and procession as I described above and what we are used to) onto any number of different cultures coming to our denomination?

Cultural stuff is hard- if you've ever attended a quinceanera, think of how different it was. Or, if you ever attended a wedding in the Orthodox Church, with the crowning of the couple. They are all beautiful traditions...but they often elicit responses like "we don't do that in my church..." Heck, even the blessing of Easter Baskets is not a "thing" in much of the Catholic world—it is cultural!

As the Church has changed around us, our Easter Procession remains—it is one of those extra answers (further down the list, but an answer nonetheless) to that magic question we often get: "how is the PNCC different than other Catholic Churches?" Fr. Jason

The Blessing of the Food Baskets



Bible Study

With some prep and announcement, a new series of Bible Study began at St. Mary's on Wednesday, March 8 at 6pm. The class is following a book on Angels, with Fr. Jason leading the class and offering Catholic and inter-religious vantage points on angels.

As usual, the class "begins" with prayer at 6pm that blesses the food, always lovingly prepared by the Repede family. It features a homemade soup, a bread, drink, and dessert. Others are invited to come by for 6:30 if they prefer to just attend the Study. Pictured is a shot from our opening lesson in early March.



Mission Team Meets

The Mission Team meets each First Tuesday of the month at 10am for an activity. Usually it is prayer blanket making, but it has also rotated to a few other things.

On Tuesday March 7, they met and made some St. Patrick's Day cards to share with those in the local community. God bless the creativity of those who come together each month to show the love of Christ in the continuing Mission of the Church.



Lenten Retreat of the WD Northeast Seniorate

The annual Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese took place on Saturday, March 4, beginning at 10am at Resurrection PNCC in Temperance, MI.

Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak, Administrative Senior led the introduction of the event after all gathered had a cup of coffee and shared a few breakfast bites to eat. An interesting ice and snowstorm affected many people's travel, with our Detroit people having to dig themselves out of their driveways. Ohio people had a clear and sunny drive!

Father Senior Nowak, Father Jason Soltysiak, and neo-presbyter Father James Ploskonka were the presenters this year. The focus was on the Stations of the Cross, with each priest addressing a portion of them to cover all fourteen.

Fr. Jason closed the retreat portion of the event with a penitential service. The penance assigned included a reading of the seven penitential



Lenten Retreat, Cont.

psalms.

The host parish provide a wonderful luncheon after our souls were cleansed. The meal featured lasagna, sloppy joes, pulled pork, buns, coleslaw, salad, chips, and more. Everyone enjoyed catching up in these early days of Lent. Kathy Chockley offered her talents in photography, with husband Larry making sure the technology of the presentations ran smoothly.

theme and guidelines—we shall see! Much appreciation to all who attended and spent some time in prayer, worship, and learning.



The clergy discussed the possibility of bypassing a Seniorate Retreat next year in favor of local ones at each parish, perhaps all following the same

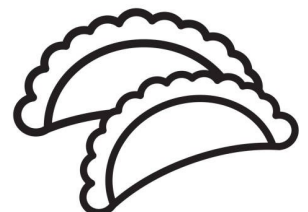


Pierogi Making

A smaller pierogi making event took place on Tuesday, March 21. Potato & Cheese pierogi were prepped to be

available for the upcoming Fish Fry as well as on sale for the Easter Holiday. Thank you to all who made the effort to be part of the prep process on Monday

or the creative process on Tuesday.



Saint Joseph Celebration

A beautiful and unique celebration of Saint Joseph, Guardian of Jesus took place on Sunday, March 19 at St. Mary's.

At their meeting on March 5, the Love of God Sodality worked on an idea on honoring good St. Joseph in a new way, as his Traditional Feast Day fell on a Sunday this year.

Holy Mass began with procession directly to the altar of St. Joseph on

the Lesson side of the church sanctuary. Flowers were laid down in his honor, with Fr. Jason noting how this altar of Joseph the Workman combines with the statue of Joseph the Guardian in the back of the church to tell the full story of everything Joseph.

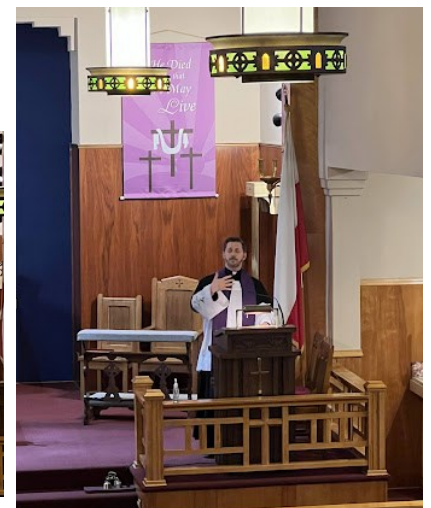
Thank you to the St. Mary's Love of God Sodality for masterminding the event and all who played a role in its planning. A special coffee hour was held in honor of Joseph this day as well.



Lenten Devotions

Friday Night Lenten Devotions continued throughout the month of March. Each Friday, our parish cycled through all three portions of the Bitter (Sorrowful) Lamentations as

well as three versions of the Stations of the Cross. Each of the six Friday night services during Lent featured either a sermon or the Exposition & Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.



Various Announcements

EASTER BLESSINGS – To the parishioners and friends of St. Mary's: In Easter, we rejoice in that very thing that allows us the privilege to carry the name "Christian." May we sing divine praises & enjoy this wonderful holiday. From our family to yours: Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed! Fr. Jason, Natalie, & Brady.

DYNGUS DAY – or Wet Monday (Śmigus-dyngus, Lany Poniedziałek, Polewanka or Oblewanka) is the name for Easter Monday in Poland. Early morning, boys awake girls by pouring water on their heads and strike their legs with long twigs made from willow, birch or decorated tree branches (palmy wielkanocne). Later the focus shifted to the courting aspect of the ritual, and young unmarried girls were the only acceptable targets. A boy would sneak into the bedroom of the girl he fancied and awaken with water. Politics played an important role, and often the boy would get

access to the house only by arrangement with the girl's mother. Throughout the day, girls would find themselves the victims of drenchings and leg-whippings.

THANK YOU!! – Many "thank you's" are in order regarding this Lenten Season: to all who helped clean and prep for the Triduum and for Easter Sunday, to all who attended or participated in any of the Lenten liturgies - Stations of the Cross, Bitter Lamentations, Holy Week services; to all who purchased pierogi, kielbasa, or kolaczki and all who took time to place a prayer on the Mission Team's prayer cross.

APPLEBEES FUNDRAISER - takes place on the day of this email, Thursday April 13th at Applebees in Independence from 11am-11pm. There, we will receive 15% on each check – We hope to report a great success!

PARISH POTLUCK APRIL 16 – Please make note that we are bumping up April 16th's Holy Mass to 10am and that we will be having a parish potluck after Mass in the basement hall. The choir is graciously providing

some kielbasa & kraut – we all have to fill in the rest!

Sp. CLARENCE SOBOCINSKI – Parishioner Clarence Sobocinski passed away on Good Friday after battling illness. A testament to an evolving faith, he joined St. Mary's in his mid-80's! More info will be made at a later date. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

CHURCH PROPERTY – We will tentatively hold a clean-up day in late April or early May. (looking for a date since we are rescheduling the former date of April 22). Anyone can come, and especially helpful would be if you brought your own rakes, shovels, brooms, hedge trimmers, and gardening gloves. Lunch & snacks provided.

BOARD MEETING – The Parish Committee (Board) meeting originally scheduled for April 18 has been bumped to Monday, April 17th at 6pm. Thanks in advance for understanding.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Will take place on Friday evenings at 7pm during May this year. Please mark your calendars in advance!

Lenten Food Drive

For well over a decade, the faithful and friends of St. Mary's have participated in a guided Lenten Food Collection.

The weekly bulletin gives prompts for what will be collected in the coming week, ranging all over the

food pyramid and what type of packaging will be sought. The parish collects on behalf of the Parma Hunger Center, located at Parma Lutheran Church, and our own parish weekly Food Ministry.

For a second straight year, we have partnered with the Polish National

Union of America spring program: "Roll Away the Stone of Hunger" sponsored by PNU District 5 & 12 and hosted by Branch 112. We will give another few days or so to donate any goods and they will be brought over to the Parma Hunger Center to be donated.

This picture was taken with just a few days to go in the collection and features Mr. John Spilka, Parish Pastor Fr. Jason Soltysiak, and Parish Chair Susan Boehnlein. Mr. Spilka and his wife sp. Joan were instrumental in the successes of Branch 112 in Parma, OH.



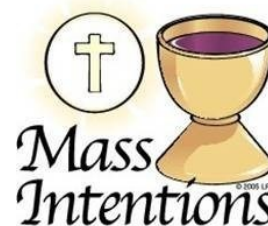
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Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

April 2 – Gene Mora of. by daughter Cherie Kugler
April 9— No Intention taken on Easter Sunday
April 16– (10am) Rose, Walter, & Edward Franczak of. by John Spilka
April 23 – Raymond J. Kovach Jr. of. by Cheryl Repko
April 30—Len Pryer of. by daughter Evonne

May 7 – Ruth Dobrowolski of. by daughter Pattie Dotson
May 14— Charlotte Hess of. by Tom Kugler (1st Anv.)
May 21– Stanley & Yolanta Kwiatek of. by John Spilka
May 28 – John Paul Repko of. by daughter Cheryl Repko



Upcoming open dates: Jun. 11, 18; Jul. 16, 30; Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, Sep. 10, 24.

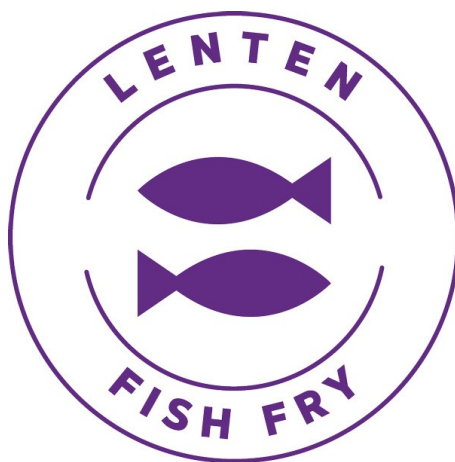
Parish Lenten Fish Fry

The parish of St. Mary's held a drive-thru Fish Fry on Friday, March 24. We have held a Fish Fry every Lenten Season recently, from one to 3 per season over the last decade or so. The event took place from 4pm-

6:30pm, with an array of help outside directing vehicles, upstairs filling bags and running payments, and downstairs prepping, cooking, and putting everything together.

Dinners featured a huge 9 oz. piece of pollock, a choice of fries or 3 pierogi, coleslaw,

and dessert. Thank you to Pattie Dotson for taking the lead on this event as well as to all who supported this parish fundraiser by offering their time, talent, or treasure.



April Days of Note



April Birthdays

- 7th – Helen Wankowski
- 12th – Michael Oleniacz
- 14th – Karen Barnes
- 22nd – Julie Koehler
- 29th – Nick Sivik
- 30th – Sue Bengala



Happy Anniversary

April Anniversaries

- 1st – Tom & Karen Bedocs
- 28th – Zbigniew & Elizabeth Starnawski

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 Risen King"

Today we celebrate,
our risen King
the new life to us
that He brings.

A life of hope,
gloriously eternal
a life saved
from hell's infernal.

Today we rejoice,
for a Savior risen
freeing us from
a sinner's prison.

A freedom from,
works without grace
a liberty of faith
for us to embrace.

Today we celebrate,
Jesus' resurrection
the triumphed climax
to His crucifixion!

By Deborah Ann Belka

Mark 10:45

*For even the Son of man
came not to be ministered unto,
but to minister, and to give his
life a ransom for many.*

Matthew 28:6

*He is not here: for he is risen,
as he said. Come, see the place
where the Lord lay.*

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
June Zaub	Sauna Smullen
Marty Bengala	Tom Putynski
Claire Hunek	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Joseph Bischoff
David Micka	Jeff Lukas
Ed Pierson	George Bennett
Amy Dreger	Pattie Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	David Vaden
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Mike Matis
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
Wojciech Fedorowicz	Ben Soltis
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Doreen Stanley	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Wisniewski	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Barb & Jim Lukas
Mike Pescitelli	Kathy Robertson
Mary Cawley	Richard & Edna Samelson
Jim Giles	Kathleen Sobocinski
Bill Zychowski	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Joseph Zubel	Lew Heifner
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Shannon Alberino
Jayden Pieciak	Joyce Zeigler
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Kim Penney
Robert Owen Miller	Patrick Kmitt
Michael McGivern	Daniel Morgan
Dan Ewanko	Roseanne & George Ziefle
Phil Repko	Penny Dennison

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

