

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

May 2017

Pastor: Rev. Jason H. Soltysiak
frjason82@gmail.com

Parish Chair: Mrs. Elaine Ploskonka
elaineploskonka@gmail.com
Cell: (216)536-3496



St. Mary's P.N.C.C
5375 Broadview Road
Parma, OH 44134
Office/Hall Phone: 216-661-9246
Rectory Phone: 216-741-8154
Email: stmarypncc@sbcglobal.net
www.stmaryspncc.org
Like us on Facebook-St. Mary's Parma OH

4:4– 5000; Acts 5:14- “Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women.”

There's more...but you get the point. Stuff was happening! It took some prodding, and the disciples needed confidence—like we all do in our jobs! (Matthew 28:16-20) “Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

Even though there was doubt up to the last moments before Jesus Ascended to Heaven, it did not show once they began their work. In a generation—the church went from eleven apostles and a couple hundred stray disciples to...what? Tens of thousands? Hundreds of thousands?

The directive remains the same today, but the numbers don't. I don't think I've baptized 50 people in my life, let alone 5000. But the confidence the church needs is to make sure that working with the trust in the authority of Jesus and doing what was commanded *will* bring more to the flock. What's next? Hopefully, that the stories of conversions continue, even if it is just one at a time.

of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared. “

This work, published in 93 AD, acknowledged Jesus of Nazareth as indeed, something *more*, namely, Messiah. This thinking would not be accepted by the Roman Empire until centuries later. However, this objective account provides an historical view of that time for anyone who might not have enough faith in the Sacred work of scripture.

In scripture, the church walks at different speeds in the Post-Resurrection universe. On Sunday's, we hear bits and pieces, working the way towards the Ascension in the Gospels while Acts is focused on the building of the church. However, in the daily Mass readings, much more is happening. In fact, as of the third week of Easter, the apostles have been imprisoned and released while Saul has already become Paul after killing Stephen and undergoing his great *metanoia* (substantial change). Note— you can visit usccb.org and check out the Daily Readings calendar in the bottom right hand corner to see what the church offers for that day.

However we consume it, scripture shows the power of the Christian Faith in the time after the Resurrection. Just listen to the numbers baptized afterward in the acts of the Apostles: Acts 2:41– 3000; Acts

So...What Next?!

In the immediate days following Easter Sunday, the day of our Savior's triumphant Resurrection, the church offers us readings that really paint the picture of what was going on in Jerusalem at the time.

From the chapters of the Acts of the Apostles to the Gospels to even some commentary from the Apostolic Letters (those written by the Apostles, namely this year St. Peter), we have access to some of the sights, words, and sounds from 2000 years ago.

The Roman Historian, of great renown, Josephus, published a History of the Jewish People within *Testimonium Flavianum*. In it, he wrote: “About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people who accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets

TRADITIONS—Steve, Randomly Speaking

We went to Church Easter Sunday, and as I sat next to my family I looked around and saw some men dressed in suits and some ladies with big ol' Easter Bonnets (TRADITION).

Ordinarily, I am steadfastly focused on Father Jason during Mass but today, I began to reminisce about things gone by from my youth (old people tend to do that!)

Growing up, my family attended Sacred Heart of Jesus on West 14th Street in Cleveland. I can picture being with my parents, uncle, and grandparents as we drove up in my parents 1955 Pontiac turquoise and white 4-door sedan (an old person's car). My grandparents and Uncle Adolph would be following closely behind in his 1956 Oldsmobile black and red 2-door hardtop sport – My uncle always was a show off! (Hardtops are cars where the windows all roll down and there is no center post.

Editor's note: Mr. Fesz LOVES cars!

Anyway, there we were, all dressed up for Easter: me in my dark blue 1st Communion suit, white shirt, white tie, my

father in a suit and my mother in a nice dress and, of course, a big ol' Easter bonnet. I can picture still my grandfather in his suit and straw hat...yes, straw hat...and white shoes and my grandmother in a nice dress and a big ol' Easter hat as well (TRADITION).

We'd enter a full church and sit down. As I looked around, I could barely see the altar, what with all the big hats (I miss that!) that the women were wearing. The service, of course, was in Polish, as was the memorable singing and hymns. After Mass, we would go to the basement of the church for coffee and donuts.

After our time at Sacred Heart we went home to a two-family house on Brooklyn Ave. which my grandparents owned and where we lived upstairs. Later in the day, the whole family got together for Easter Dinner (TRADITION). What did we have? You had to ask? Kielbasa, pierogi, horseradish, ham, eggs, cheesecake from the Starkweather Bakery (TRADITION). I miss those days, especially my mother, grandparents and uncle.

I am blessed and happy to have Barbara as my wife who believes in those TRADITIONS, along with the rest of our family. Getting back to the present day...Mass at St. Mary's on Easter Sunday played to a small, intimate group of people. I would have liked to see more men dressed in suits and more women with big ol' Easter hats (TRADITION). As usual, Father's Easter Message was inspirational and the singing by the Polish Angels in the choir loft singing some classic Easter hymns brought back wonderful memories.

After Mass, we went to the Pastor's brunch, where we had ham, kielbasa, horseradish, eggs, deviled eggs (I think we may have to rename those...), and babka bread. Sounds like a familiar meal (TRADITION).

My thanks to Father and Natalie for a traditional brunch. Afterward, we went home for our own traditional feast with our family. I hope that all of you had as nice and traditional of an Easter as our family did.

Just me, randomly speaking,
Steve Fesz, Vice Chair.

Parma Hunger Center Food Collection

Our parish took part in a Lenten Food Collection that we turned over to the Parma Hunger Center. Each week, the parish bulletin directed what would be needed for the next week.

The Parish Committee also directed the Helping Hand fund to make a donation of \$250 to the Hunger Center to aid them in their assistance of local neighbors in need.

Many thanks to anyone who donated food items or cash towards this endeavor. *'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* (Matthew 25:40).



Chrism Mass

In a change of venue, the Diocesan Chrism Mass took place at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cedar Lake, IN on Holy Tuesday, April 11.

All of the Diocesan priests are called to

attend this Holy Mass (preceded this year by a short Clergy Conference) and, along with the Diocesan Bishop, bless the Holy Oils that will be of use in the Diocese throughout the coming year.

Dr. Jim and Elaine Ploskonka attended

the Holy Mass this year. They enjoyed seeing a Liturgy they had never seen before and remarked how neat it was to see the full altar of priests., as well as the chant to bless the Holy Chrism.



Just skip church?

Father Norton woke Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf.

So... He told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about for-

ty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord

sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. IT WAS A 420 YARD HOLE IN ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

Various Announcements

Season of Easter

The Easter Season begins with the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days, until the day of Pentecost, this year on June 4. 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.

May Devotions

May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary have begun and will be celebrated on the following Wednesdays: May 10 (English), May 17 (Polish), May 24 (English), May 31 (Polish). Please consider attending these devotions to 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.

Holy Water

Holy Water was blessed Holy Saturday at the service of New Fire and Water. It is in the back, Gospel side of the Church. All are welcome to fill containers and bring some home.

Mothers' Day Brunch

On Mothers' Day, May 14, Branch #29 of the YMSofR sponsors the annual Mothers' Day Brunch. This is for everyone in attendance, not just the fairer gender. Traditional favorites will be served by our loyal parish men featuring the largest smiles they can make.

Parish Committee

The next Parish Committee meeting takes place on Tuesday evening, June 23 at 6pm. Dinner will be provided.

Food Ministry

Thank you to all who helped with our April Food Ministry. 69 meals, made up of pierogi, onions and butter, rolls, pastry, and cakes were

served to those in need in our local community.

PolishFest and Car Show

For those planning in advance, the date for this year's PolishFest is July 6-9 and the *Dinner and a Car Show* will be Saturday, August 5.

The PNU

Spring is a time when sunny days lead to blooming trees, flowers, and new growth. Its a good time to find out how the PNU can help add new growth to **your** financial portfolio. Endowments, insurance policies, and annuities are some of the things the PNU offers to help you and your family grow financially. Contact your PNU Branch Secretary or call the PNU Home Office at 1-800-724-6352 for more info.

Plastic Bags

You know you have plastic bags full of plastic bags in your home. The Mission Team is calling for a collection of these items, which will then be woven to make temporary bedding for the needy. This program will benefit those who have nowhere else to lay their heads in the coming months.

Kid's Stations of the Cross

On Good Friday, the children of our parish joined Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg in walking and praying a youth-oriented Stations of the Cross.

At the conclusion of Station 14, Jesus is Laid in the Tomb, two adults brought forth the statues of the Crucified Christ and laid Him in place. Fr. Jason concluded with a short sermon.



Easter at St. Mary's



A note from your parish chair

Happy Mother's Day!

Wishing all of you a beautiful Mother's Day - May God always be with you to bless, protect and guide you!



No Love like a Mother's Love

There is no love, like a mother's love,
no stronger bond on earth...
like the precious bond that comes from God,
to a mother, when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong,
never changing for all time...
and when her children need her most,
a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,
God bless them every one...
for all the tears and heartache,
and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,
a mother's love lives on...
through many generations,
with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,
for they love with a higher love...
from the power God has given,
and the strength from up above.

Jill Lemming

elaine p. plaskonka

A Mother's Prayer

Help me dear Lord, as a mother, I pray
And bless these hands folded in prayer today;
May they be ever strong as they guide, as they teach,
Being never too far for a child to reach.
May they never, with selfishness, try to dissuade,
Nor too quickly punish, nor too slowly aid.
May they point out the pleasures in laughter and song,
And may they show, wisely, the right from the wrong,
So that one day I'll know that I've helped all I can
To make her a woman, to make him a man.

- **Mary A. Loberg**

Let's get cookin'...



Chocolate Lush

1 stick butter, softened

1 cup flour

1 cup chopped pecans (reserve some for top) Mix softened butter with flour, press into bottom of 9 x 13 greased pan (Pyrex). Cover with chopped nuts and press into dough. Nuts can also be mixed into butter and flour mixture prior to pressing in pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Cool completely.

1 8-oz. pkg cream cheese, room temperature

1 cup powdered sugar

1 8-oz. Cool Whip

With fork, cream the cream cheese. Mix in powdered sugar and fold in 1/2 of Cool Whip. Spread over crust. For easier mixing, add 2 tablespoons to cream cheese from measured amount of pudding.

1 6-oz. instant Jello chocolate pudding mix (use 2-2/3 cup milk)

2 3-3/4 oz. instant Jello vanilla pudding mix (use 1 cup milk)

Mix the chocolate pudding with milk, spread over cream cheese layer. Mix vanilla pudding with milk and spread over chocolate layer. Top with remaining Cool Whip. Top with grated chocolate and chopped nuts (reserved). Refrigerate. Will keep in refrigerator for several days.

From the pages of St. Mary's PTO Presents... Adventures in Cooking

WHO DOES WHAT.... A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it because you get up first and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee." The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it because that is your job and I can just wait for my coffee." Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides, it's in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." Husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me." So she fetched the Bible, and opened to the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says....."Hebrews"

PNCC Future Directions Subcommittee May update

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!. As we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection and give praise and glory to God during this Easter season - we also have an eye on the coming Solemnity of Pentecost and are reminded of the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.



The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, continues to teach, govern and sanctify the Church. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that our Lord continues to be present to His Church through the Sacraments. Do we allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us? Do we embrace the gifts of the Holy Spirit to keep us firm in our commitment to Christ and His Holy Church?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Strength, Godliness and fear of the Lord.

As we are called during this month to commit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit - let us remember the declaration we made after we received the Sacrament of Confirmation:

On this solemn day of my life, the day on which I received the Sacrament of Confirmation, I publicly declare before Almighty God, His holy Church, and all here present, that I shall be a faithful member of Christ's Church. Strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I promise to do all in my power to live according to the Commandments of God and fulfill His holy will. I promise to avoid sin, the occasion of sin and evil companionship. I promise to remember always, and in all places, that I am a member of the Polish National Catholic Church and to faithfully fulfill all my obligations towards this Church. So help me, God, one in the Blessed Trinity and all the saints. Amen.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit: (2006 PNCC Missal - Mass of Pentecost)

Let us pray: Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, have mercy on us. As You descended upon the disciples in the upper room, so now once again descend upon Your Church. In flame our hearts, enlighten our minds and purify our souls. For together with the Father and the Son You live and reign, one God, forever and ever.

Reflection from God's Word (1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13)

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - as we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Remember, you too can sign up to receive emails from the Polish National Catholic Church Future Directions Sub-committee. Send them an email at futuredirection@pncc.org to sign up.

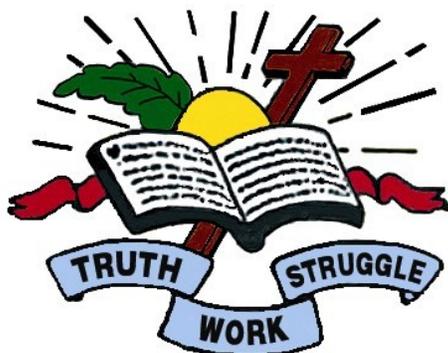
May Days of Note



- 1st – Marianne Viers (Misiewicz)
- 1st – Bruce Toburen
- 2nd – Kevin Burger
- 2nd – Tom Bedocs
- 2nd – Pat Glatzer
- 4th – Jimmy Ploskonka
- 6th – Joshua Knapp
- 7th – Sally Harper
- 8th – Stan Dobrowolski
- 9th – Demi Paulus
- 9th – Lolly Spilka
- 12th – Debbie Moritz
- 13th – Chuck Repede
- 15th – George Ziefle
- 16th – Adrienne Michalczyk
- 18th – John Grmovsek
- 18th – Jim Matteson
- 29th – Andre Spanjol
- 30th – Jo Ann Long
- 30th – Audrey Spanjol



- 1st — Gerald & Kathleen Beres



"Mary, Mother of Jesus"

by Denis Martindale

In Roman times, when swords were raised,
And peace on Earth was rare,
There lived a girl now highly praised,
A girl beyond compare...
Her name was Mary, Joseph's love,
Betrothed, untouched by Man...
Who met an angel from above
Who then revealed God's plan!
'Young maiden, you are full of grace!
The Lord chose you of all!
You shall conceive and then embrace
The child that God must call!
He shall be king and rightly so,
Begotten of the Lord!
And blessed is he, God's Son to know...
So, Mary, be assured! '
God's Son was born as prophesied!
To Mary, here on Earth...
In time, she saw Him crucified!
Esteemed not for His worth!
Her heart was broken just like His!
She held his mortal frame!
And neath her tears, a final kiss
As she whispered His name...
Her heart was numbed just like her soul...
With trembling hands she prayed...
Although she knew God kept control,
Her spirit was dismayed!
With trembling lips she sought His peace,
Like none on Earth before!
In hopes her faith would thus release
A miracle and more!
When Jesus left His tomb of death,
The sun was rising, too...
The Saviour savoured God's new breath
And knew what He must do...
'With God, all things are possible!
Forgiveness, born of faith! '
Such is the Gospel preached by Paul
To those whom God would save...



Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Pat Glatzer | Barbara Baranowski |
| Bill & Joan Kastak | Anna Dawidziuk |
| Craig & Judy Atherton | John Spilka |
| Tom Petrie | Mary Ann Loschelder |
| Ralph & June Zaun | Len Pryer |
| Marty Bengela | Amy Dreger |
| Floyd & Elaine Rzonca | Frank Dominik |
| Jeanette Chambers | Louise Cygan |
| Chester & Helen Budney | Bruno Tracy |
| Chester & Ann Warzala | Hilda Grabowski |
| Kathleen Beres | |

Please pray for our family and friends:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Wanda Clark | Beth Chihill |
| Michael Cosevin | Helen Cummings |
| Laina Dachtal | Gayle Green |
| Jay Grabowsky | Pam Chesar |
| Cecelia Hall | Caroline Kunes |
| Mark & Kim Andreas | Thomas Lill |
| John & Anne Nemetz | Bea Miskow |
| Rose Neyman | Carol & Chuck Boesch |
| Joanie True | Daniel Rinella |
| Joanel Rollen | Mike Szydlowski |
| 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 | Rose Kazinetz |
| 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 | Corey Wasko |
| Wanda Heffner | Geri S. |
| Donna Kidd | Colleen Howard |
| Muffie B. | Nancy Jablonowski |
| Jason Dreger | George Pofok |
| Stephanie Milla | Rich Dombrowski |
| Shannon Alberino | Bp. Thomas Gnat |
| George Beggin | Al Tomasello |
| Marilyn Girard | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |

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.

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org