

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

December 2022

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Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Why No Gloria?

Advent is such a neat time in the church's calendar. While we attend Mass on a Sunday, it sticks out for its blue (or purple...or rose) vestments or for the short liturgy that precedes Mass in lighting the Advent Candles.

That is sort of the story of Advent – the Church, for its first 300 or so years, was almost solely focused on Easter and the ramifications and celebration of it, be it on that Easter Sunday or the 51 other “mini-Easters” that differentiated Christian worship from others.



Since the calendar was “Everything Easter”, the day to baptize new Christians was the Holy Saturday Vigil, or the service that began on Saturday and concluded with the glory of Easter Sunday. An important purpose of the long Season of Lent was to help those preparing to be baptized be fully ready, fasted, and cleansed of sin before receiving that great Sacrament. But people clamored for more, and other dates began to take on importance. A season was developed to heighten the Solemnity of Epiphany, January 6, which for a time in parts of the church served as the acknowledgement as the birth of Christ as well as the revelation to the Gentiles/Magi.

Since email wasn't a thing yet, we are reminded that church practices developed regionally and spread often to the borders of a diocese or country. Upon the bishops meeting, these practices would either spread, die out, or be adopted church-wide...however long that may have taken.

One practice was that Epiphany became a day to baptize people...which meant that a period of preparation grew before it that included fasting,

increased prayer...like a Lent. But within a few years after the Council of Nicaea, it was decided that Christmas should be December 25 (336 AD). A few years later, Martin became the bishop of Tours, France and was among the first to be canonized a saint who wasn't a martyr. A strong devotion developed towards him, among those things was the development of “St. Martin's Lent”.

His feast day is November 11 and is roughly 40 days before Christmas Day – this became a “thing” emanating from France-on-out, and as this almost recreation of Lent was forming, the church in the 6th century settled into what Advent



Opening Article (Cont)

would be – the 4 Sundays preceding Christmas.

Over time, the harsh penitential mood of Advent lightened to the anticipatory theme it holds today. The Gloria, then, though once removed to reflect the traditional Lenten Season,

All Saints & All Souls

Our acknowledgment of the Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls began the Sunday just a few days prior those days, October 30. At 2pm on a seasonably warm day, our All Souls Cemetery service took place at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th Street.

Fr. Jason, Fr. Greg, and Dcn. Jim all shared in leading the liturgy for those who came out

now remains subtracted for the four Sundays of Advent to raise up the brilliance of the Gospel of Midnight Mass from Luke 2:1-14, when we hear the heavens open and the angels chant that first Gloria, acknowledging the Saviors birth.

Fr. Jason

this afternoon. The service included chant, stops at the “stations” traditional to this service, and then a blessing of each and every grave at the cemetery. Mass was celebrated at 9am on the Solemnity of All Saints, with a nice attendance from those who would shortly be chipping in at the monthly prayer blanket workshop. Holy Mass was celebrated on All Souls Day at 1pm, with the first reading of the Wypominki, or prayer list. During each



Sunday in November, portions of the list are read prior to Holy Mass, also allowing those to make an offering of remembrance names.

Finally, on the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30, the full list was read at the conclusion of 9am Holy Mass. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them!



Veterans Honored

Prayers for Veterans in anticipation of Veteran's Day were prayed after the celebration of 9am Holy Mass on Sunday, November 6. The patriotic wreath, donated by PLAV Post #164 out of Warren, OH was placed before the altar of St. Joseph and is where a time of silence and prayer took place.



Golabki Making

Golabki making in preparation for the "Heat and Eat" Fundraiser took place on Thursday morning, November 10. Using a super-secret-special recipe, the golabki/halupki/piggies were prepped, tested, and approved be-

fore the upcoming "Heat and Eat" Fundraiser. Some vegetarian versions were made as well, containing the rice & secret stuff, but without the meat. Thank you to the volunteers!



Chili Cook-Off

The Annual YMSofR Chili Cook-off took place on Sunday, November 13 following the coffee hour after 9am Mass. We had a nice variety of traditional and non-

traditional chili that were voted on with some pretty darn fancy poker chips!

Congrats to Mike Wisniewski (traditional chili) and Elaine Repede (non-traditional chili) who were the event's big winners. The only losers were the Browns, lowering their 10 year chili cook-off record to 1-9! There has been some clamoring since this event that we perhaps attach the chili cook-off on a Saturday and yoke it to an Ohio State Buckeyes game. Though, perhaps we don't want to curse them either!



Heat and Eat Fundraiser

The Heat and Eat Fundraiser took place on Saturday, November 12 in the Fellowship Hall of our parish from 10am-2pm. The event featured cold (frozen/refrigerated) Polish foods, soups, and fresh bakery as well as hot kielbasa sandwiches for anyone who wanted to grab a bite while shopping.

We were blessed by many who served in the preparation process (parish golabki and pierogi making, baking, soup prep) as well as all those who worried over pricing, packaging, and manned the different sales areas. Appreciation to Elaine Ploskonka and Cathy Avondet, who chaired this event.

A basket raffle was also on display, with tickets for various baskets the first things customers would walk past as they encircled our hall. The tickets were pulled and winners were announced at Sunday Mass the next day.

Thanks to all who attended this fundraiser, and to those that worked to make it happen. It was the second year in a row we have had this fundraiser and it looks like we got a keeper of a fundraiser!



Thanksgiving

At 10am on Thursday morning, Thanksgiving Day, November 24, Deacon Jim Ploskonka offered what would be his final Service of Worship & Holy Communion at St. Mary's before his priestly ordination.

Using the scripture of the day, Deacon preached on that very act of Thanksgiving, offering Holy Communion to those from the

parish in attendance in this Deacon's Liturgy. We thank Deacon for his ministry this day, which was prefaced by the weekly Food Ministry, where the hungry of our area were fed by Deacon and his devoted crew of helpers.



Josephine's 99th

My son, Brady, like any 5 year-old, is often enamored with what is the "biggest" or "farthest away", or who has the most, who woke up the earliest (not the most fun challenge), and, of course, who is the oldest!

St. Mary's celebrated Josephine Ference's 99th Birthday after Holy Mass on Sunday, November 20. Happy Birthday and Sto Lat were sung loud and long, and

a prayer blanket was blessed by Fr. Jason and Deacon Jim before everyone in attendance. Look at that face on Josephine! Always incredibly photogenic, she was thrilled to receive this gift from our parish as we indeed celebrated with her.



1st Sunday of Advent—Here and There

The First Sunday of Advent brings all sorts of change to the church, and we were led in that change this year by Rev. Greg Gronn, who was substituting for Fr. Jason this Sunday, November 27.

The Advent Wreath was blessed to begin Holy Mass, and the first candle for "Hope" was lighted. Assisted by Deacon Jim and wearing the (now) traditional blue vestments of Advent, the "Liturgical

New Year" was celebrated along with Fr. Greg blessing Deacon Jim's priestly vestments.

Fr. Jason was away at his home parish of St. Josephs' in Westfield, MA of the PNCC Eastern Diocese this Sunday. Their pastor (and his dad) was gracious enough to allow him the altar and pulpit for this Sunday. There, Fr. Jason offered Mass for the first time in 9 years, preaching on the old times and on this 1st Sunday of Advent.



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Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, peace be with you!

Christmas is the season during which the whole church celebrates the theme that is most central to our Christian theology and faith: God's incarnation: "God is present in us and in the world, working for our healing and growth, our direction and our comfort, our reconciliation and our redemption." This is the fundamental Christmas message to us in this age as it was to the preceding ages.

At Christmas we hold true to the faith that genuine hope, and new life, are breathed into our lives so we may start afresh. We are once again called to believe in God who first and foremost believed in us; enough to risk his son Jesus to be born as one of us. Recalling the first Christian family, Joseph, Mary and Jesus – the model of all Christian families, and the host of heavenly presence associated with his birth – the love we see in Jesus' family is the love that we are called to show and embody to everyone. God first loved us, sending his Son into the world as the perfect and wholesome gift to all humanity! It is this gift that began the well-known and much advertised tradition of gift giving Christmas is known and celebrated for over the years.

As we celebrate Christmas this year 2022 and bring to memory the birth of Jesus, may our lives be deeply touched by God's love. As we contemplate on the child Jesus who is born, may our hearts be filled with joy. As the Bishop of the Western Diocese, I manifest my spiritual closeness in prayer to all our faithful at this season of Christmas. I also wish that every family, every home, every parish in the Diocese would live and share the memory of Jesus enshrined in peace, justice, unity, forgiveness, love and joy!

As I continue my pilgrimage of faith in 2023 by leading the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church I entrust our Diocese to the protection of the Blessed Mother Mary. May she accompany us as we continue to build with the grace of God renewed by the General Synod our Polish National Catholic Church.

Wishing you and your families Christmas joy and a New Year filled with new blessings of God's goodness. Jesus is born! Let us rejoice!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko".

Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw (Jerry) Rafalko
Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese
Polish National Catholic Church

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Various Announcements

CANON – For the month of December, we use the 4th Eucharistic Prayer on page 88.

NEW LITURGICAL CYCLE – The Advent Season brings about many changes – different vestments, a wreath, a short penitential season. It also brings about “Liturgical New Year: Cycle A” that is, the readings are of a prophetic nature, the gospel begins in a new point of history (preparing for the coming of Christ), and the gospel is from St. Matthew after hearing from mostly St. Luke for the past year.

RORATE MASS - On Monday, December 19, for a second straight year, we will have a Rorate Mass at 7am entirely in candlelight. This Mass is a votive to the Blessed Mother and our patroness, and is an Advent tradition in the Catholic church to acknowledge her role in the Nativity story. The Mass completes with the rising of the sun.

TAKE-HOME WIGILIA– The Mission Team/Love of God Sodality is co-sponsoring a take-home Wigilia/Wilia dinner for Christmas Eve. Not everyone has a family to be with, and not everyone has the time to cook. A meal, featuring meatless church-made favorites will be available in single-serving and family portions. The meal is prepared, but purchased cold – heating instructions for

each item provided. Please see the inside of the Newsletter cover for info.

HOLIDAY KOLACZKI –Orders are being taken for Christmas Kolaczki at \$14 for two dozen, baked or unbaked - they will be available for pickup on Friday, December 23 between 2 & 6:30pm. Please see Susan Boehnlein or Pattie Dotson.

SOCK TREE- is located in the back of the church, opposite the food collection. Please bring **NEW** socks, hats, and gloves/mittens that will be attached to the tree, and subsequently donated. Thank you!

OPLATKI – Was blessed and is placed on St. Joseph's Altar. You may take however much you want – we just ask that you leave a donation in the basket. Since it is a blessed item, you are to use all of what you take and are not to throw any of it in the garbage.

PARISH MEETINGS –Election of Officers meeting is Sunday, January 8. Our Annual Parish Meeting will be Sunday, January 29.

ORDINATION– Deacon Jim was ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ in the Polish National Catholic Church December 10, through the hands of our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko. He celebrated Holy Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cedar Lake, IN the next day with Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk on December 11 as he celebrated his 37th

anniversary of Ordination. May God strengthen and equip Fr. Jim with what he needs throughout his ministry, and may he be ever more humble and devoted in the service of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PTO BASKET RAFFLE – Per the (wonderful) usual, the PTO will be sponsoring a Christmas Basket Raffle on December 18. Please support this venture in your donations towards the basket raffle as well

CHRISTMAS CARD fundraiser is active! Save money by not using the Post Office and use the PTO! For the 1980's cost of 25 cents per card, the PTO will sort each card to the envelope of your church-member friends near the piano in the Fellowship Hall. What a deal!

FOOD COLLECTION – During Advent, we have a guided collection. There is a table in the back of church, with items needed to fill it! items will be donated to the Parma Hunger Center, located at Parma Lutheran. Next week, Dec. 25, we will take monetary donations and any other non-perishable items.

CLOTHES COLLECTION –The YMSofR Clothing Collection is underway, just in time to empty your closets before the holidays. Please drop off any clothing in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. We have engaged in a light competition with other parishes in the PNCC, so the more you donate or get your friends and family to donate, the better!

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS – For 2022 are due by Tuesday, December 27. Please see Pattie Dotson with any questions.

Operation Christmas Child

On Sunday, November 13 after 9am Holy Mass, a boxing party was held to complete our donations for the annual Operation Christmas Child Collection. Boxes, stuffed with toys, school items, and hygiene items are filled and pre-

pared by age and gender to be shipped across to world to a child (and his/her family) who may not get to share Christmas presents otherwise.

Many thanks to Evonne Pryer (and her dedicated team of volunteers) who took the time to collate, pack, label, rubber-band, deliver, and more. The boxes were

blessed by Fr. Jason before being sent to the collection site.

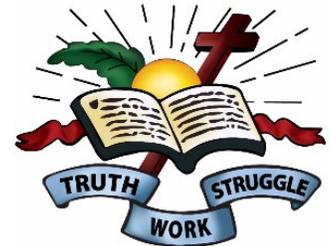


PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2022

PNCC



December 2022 – The Eucharist: The Heart and Center of Who We Are

During the month of December as we conclude our year of Being Eucharistic People – we reflect on importance of receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist to lead and guide us on our earthly pilgrimage.

Scripture: (Ezekiel 36:26-27) A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit in will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes.

Reflection and Action Item:

As we have now begun to open up our parish churches following the most difficult parts of the pandemic, I had the opportunity to distribute Holy Communion to a number of individuals who had not received our blessed Lord in Holy Communion for some time. I remember seeing the tears of joy in their eyes as they approached the altar to receive Jesus and how moved they were to be united, at that moment, with our Lord. These individuals were aware that up until that time they were missing something precious and holy within their lives.



It is so very easy for each of us to lose track of exactly what are the most important things in life. First and foremost of these things must be the worship of God in the Holy Eucharist and the reception of His Son in Holy Communion. When we do not participate in this central point in our lives or when we do not attend to it the way we should, we begin, in fact, to have “stony hearts.” God desires that we come to Him in worship and in love; He desires that we are united to Him in the reception of Holy Communion. He seeks to put within us “hearts of flesh,” hearts renewed under His continuing creative power and love.

In order to us to be true and faithful Catholics, true and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, our worship and participation at the Holy Eucharist is essential. It is our worship of the God Who created us, our union with the Lord Who loves us and gave Himself for us upon the Cross. It is the opportunity to join with others into the one body of Christ on earth to accomplish His work and build the kingdom of God. It is truly the heart and center of who we are and all that we are, as individuals and as parishes together. In

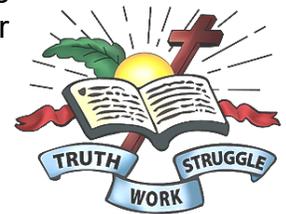
PNCC Future Dir. (Con't)

fact, it is the heart and center of all creation.

Action Item – After the reception of Holy Communion at your parish church, pray the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion from the PNCC Prayer Book and contemplate the great gift you have received as Christ comes to you in Holy Communion.

Schedule and conduct Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

May God bless you; may our Lord guide you, may our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph intercede for us. As we end this year of Being Eucharistic People may we realize the importance of attending Holy Mass and receiving our Lord present to us in this great gift. As we journey through this Holy Advent season let our discipleship reflect the importance of receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Holy Communion and that be evident by how we choose to live our lives serving Him and others.



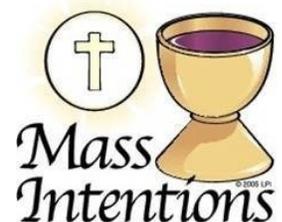
PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

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

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

December 4– Stella & Jack White (Wedding Anv.) of. by daughter Patty Temesi
December 11 – Anthony Soltysiak (birthday) of. by brother Fr. Jason
December 18– Josephine Blatnik (Anv. in Heaven) of. by daughter Elaine & family
December 25 – No Intention Taken on Christmas

January 1— Len & Hanna Pryer of. by daughter Evonne Pryer
January 8 – Bruno & Dorothy Tracy of. by Randy Tracy
January 15– Open Intention
January 22 – Open Intention
January 29 - Open Intention (Music Scholarship Sunday)



Fr. Jason is now taking Mass Requests for the 2023 Year.

Sp. Pollyanna Gajda

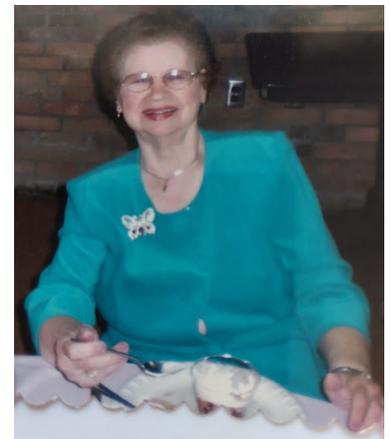
February 6, 1920-November 28, 2022

Pollyanna Gajda passed away Monday, November 28, 2022. Her daughter, Polly, was at her bedside. Pollyanna had a good and long life, living to 102 and 3/4 years old. She moved from Berea, Ohio to Fort Myers, Florida about eight years ago where she lived with Polly. The last few years she required nursing home care at Brookdale. Her happy times included family, travel, card games (Old Maid and 21), Polish cooking, casino slot machines, and especially polka dancing with

her husband Joe.

She leaves behind: three adult children- Dennis, Steve (deceased) and Pollyanne She enjoyed several grandchildren: Shayla, Gretchen, Paul, Steve, Renee, Jill and Justine Pollyanna will be missed by all who knew and loved her

Polly was particularly devoted to the Love of God Sodality while she was local. She also served on the Parish Committee during her years at St. Mary's. She will be laid to rest at the Resthaven Cemetery in Avon, Ohio.



December Days of Note



December Birthdays

- 1 Nick Paulus
- 7 Michele Barry-Misiewicz
- 8 Dale Dotson, Sr.
- 8 Bill Zychowski
- 17 David P. Micka
- 18 Steven Wisniewski
- 19 Ethan Long
- 20 Jessica Moritz
- 22 John Dankanich
- 24 Dale Dotson, Jr.
- 24 Susan Boehnlein
- 25 Eileen Matteson
- 27 Paul LeMessena
- 29 Halina Dreger
- 31 Jack Spilka



December Anniversaries

None listed!

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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Christmas is Coming

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the earth,
Every creature was stirring, awaiting a birth.
The time for Messiah was certainly near,
The prophets foretold it; the Bible was clear.

From the book of beginnings, the very first sin,
God's word made it clear how His grace entered in.

Born of a virgin, He'd come as a man.
The Creator among us, the time was at hand.

The stars were arranged to show marvelous things,
Setting Wise Men to journey and find the true King.
Shepherds in Bethlehem gazed on the sky,
Longing to see him, their Lord the Most High.

How could they know that the very next night
An angel of God would speak words of delight?
How the Savior was born, it was news of great joy.
In a cloth and a manger they'd find the dear boy.

And a heavenly host would soon join to sing
Of the glory of God and of wonderful things.
He entered creation, set position aside
To show us how deeply his love did abide.

Sin sent us away from our almighty Lord.
He became one of us that we might be restored.
He's the Prince of our Peace; He's the one who makes whole.
He is Wisdom Incarnate, a Shepherd of Souls.

He's the Author of Life; He's the Ruler of All.
He can offer salvation, on His name we call.
The shepherds and Wise Men would bow to adore
Holy God among men, our greatest reward.

All glory and honor is due to this King.
Let all join in worship; let every tongue sing.
Jesus is Lord, all creation proclaims.
He's the first and last, He is always the same.

History turned on the first Christmas day,
When God became man in a humble display.
As we think of the manger in which He was laid,
Let our hearts welcome Him to the world He made!

-anonymous

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 Zaun | Sauna Smullen |
| Marty Bengela | 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 |
| Marty & Cheryl DeCara | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Wisniewski | Cathy Pieciak |
| Nan Cramer | Claudette Lukas |
| Mike Pescitelli | Kathy Robertson |
| Mary Cawley | Richard & Edna Samelson |
| Jim Giles | Tammy Teubl |
| Bill Zychowski | Loretta Baldwin |
| Donna Kidd | Paulette Lilli |
| Azriel G. | Lew Heifner |
| Marilyn Girard | Courtney Austin |
| Stephanie Milla | Shannon Alberino |
| Jayden Pieciak | Sophie Mae |
| Jeremy Steinbrick | Katie Stallbaum |
| Marcia Klein | Kim Penney |
| Robert Owen Miller | Patrick Kmitt |
| Michael McGivern | Daniel Morgan |
| Barb & Jim Lukas | Renee Lukas |

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

