

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2017

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Is that spelled wrong?

One of my personal joys of priesthood is teaching—be it a bible study, 1st Communion Class, at a dinner when someone asks a question, or Confirmation Class.

After a little while, some things start repeating themselves; this is not a bad thing! It means that I'm learning and remembering as well, which can only be a good thing (especially if I have a chance to show my wares on Jeopardy!).

As Catholics, I am certain (!) that everyone who is reading this has the 7 Sacraments embedded in their brains as a treasured memory. I am also certain that you know the difference between the Polish National Catholic and Roman Catholic listing of the 7 Sacraments. If your memory is a bit fuzzy, the 7 PNCC Sacraments would be Baptism & Confirmation, The Word of God, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Holy Unction, Holy Orders, and Holy



Matrimony.

But since you, the reader, already knew these, I wanted to write up on something that is rarely spoken of by name in the church, although perhaps we encounter them even more than the 7 Sacraments. That would be...Sacramentals!

The PNCC Catechism, #121 defines Sacramentals as "Special prayers, actions, and objects that are blessed or set aside by the Church to bring us closer to God." #122 gives examples: "The sign of the Cross, religious ceremonies, holy oils, holy water, candles, ashes, palms, bells, incense, crucifixes, images of our Lord, images of the saints."

They are often things we either don't think about or take for granted. Rounding into the Lenten Season, we could see the impact that they have on Catholics across the world.

Lent starts with ashes—the reminder of penitence, the object placed on our heads that bring us humility. Palms, of course, are blessed and distributed on Palm Sunday. Holy Oils are blessed by the clergy of the diocese and, especially, the bishop, on Holy Tuesday of Holy Week. A large crucifix is acknowledged and laid down in the nave of the church on Good Friday. Holy Water and the new fire are blessed on Holy Saturday. Bells welcome the Resurrected Lord and Savior on Easter as the Paschal Candle, Crucifix, and statue of the victorious Lord are processed.

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All of these things are Sacramentals, and all of these things absolutely enhance our time of worship and our relationship with God.



It is a long-standing joke that people come to church when there is a "give-away". Hence, Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday often bring occasional church-goers and unattached guests. CAPE's—Christmas, Ashes, Palms, Easter, as the joke goes. But the joke provides insight to the importance and how meaningful these Sacramentals can be.

What would Ash Wednesday be without ashes, or Palm Sunday sans palms? And Easter procession just wouldn't feel "right" without bells ringing, items processing, and smoke billowing. For many Catholics, these sights, sounds, and smells are what make worship holy, meaningful, and memorable.

The church advises us to make sure Sacramentals are present in our homes as well—there should always be at least one crucifix, some holy water, and blessed candles. Candles are blessed and distributed on Candlemas, February 2nd, but you surely also have other blessed candles: it is many parish traditions to give out a candle at a person's baptism and/or 1st Communion.

May everyone's Lenten Season provide new insight to his or her personal faith. For some, it is increased prayer, fasting and almsgiving. For others, it is an extended amount of time spent in reading scripture or finding out more about religion, tradition, and history. May this short lesson on Sacramentals give a little insight to that end.

Fr. Jason

Potluck Sunday!

On Sunday, February 12, the parish enjoyed one of our world-reknoned potluck dinners.

The schedule for morning Mass was adjusted to have just one at 10am. Fr. Jason subsequently took a poll of everyone to see if this would still be the desired time/format for whenever we wanted to do these—everyone heartily agreed to keep it as-is.

Some dish highlights for the day included salads, kielbasa & kraut, 3 different kinds of meatballs (!), pierogi, various cakes, cookies, and other snacks. A special Valentines cake showed up as well, matching the rose-colored vestments worn by the clergy that day!

Thanks to all who continue to enjoy and support our potlucks. They are always a nice change-of-pace that are chock-full of wonderful fellowship. And, in true Polish fashion, there is enough food left over to feed a few more dozen people!



Bishop Hodur's Lenten Thoughts

Taken from Hodur: Sermon Outlines and Occasional Speeches

Is it possible for this time, which has come upon us, the time of the Great Lent, to be called pleasant, a time of salvation? It depends on how we understand pleasant life. If we understand life as physical pleasure, sensual, the gratification of the needs and desires of the



body, the time of Lent will not be pleasant. But if we understand life in the spirit of Christian teaching, as the perfection of self by overcoming of base motivations, then in this case the time of Lent and those lessons which Lent brings with itself—prayer, the reading of pious works, work dictated by charity—all these characteristics of Lent provide a person with spiritual satisfaction. And for this reason we call this time of approaching spring a time of rebirth, salvation. But above all this is a time to straighten out one's affairs with God, the Creator, the Judge, and Destiny.

In the course of the year, more than one of us in the struggle for existence, in work, in worries swept by fear, passion or inadequate guarding against the drives of the body, has committed a morally wrong act, one unworthy of the being of God. Through this he severed the bond with his Creator. This is the

time for us to reflect on our relationship with God in this, our sinful state.

Remember that sin is:

1. Forgetting about God and gratitude in regard to Him. We live from His goodness and love, surrounded by the miracles of His omnipotence. We look upon this beautiful earth, at the stars, and all this does not move us.
2. Worse yet, however, not only are we not moved to love and gratitude, we offend and insult God. If we met a person who offended his father, his mother, we would feel revulsion towards him.

But are we any better? Let us remind ourselves at least what God has accomplished through Jesus Christ. The Heavenly Father commands Him to seek a person. And He says: "If your sins be as scarlet, they shall be made as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18).

And if a person captured by His voice turns to Him, He is as happy as a shepherd who has found a lost lamb.

First Communion Sunday

On Sunday, February 19, at the 9am Holy Mass, we enjoyed witnessing Mr.

Rocco A. receiving the Most Holy Eucharist for the first time.



Rocco and family joined St. Mary's back last summer and he, on his own accord, made sure he made it to Sunday Mass and to catechism classes. When he finally got his own car, he still made sure to attend with Fr. Jason.

Congrats Rocco! We'll see you when it is time for Confirmation classes!



Stabat Mater

*This is the English rhyme-scheme (not literal) translation from the original 13th Century Latin, done by Edward Caswall. It is a hymn used at various Lenten Devotions, including in between each recitation of the Stations of the Cross.

At the Cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to her Son to the last.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
all His bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword has passed.

O how sad and sore distressed
was that Mother, highly blest,
of the sole-begotten One.

Christ above in torment hangs,
she beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,
whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
from partaking in her pain,



in that Mother's pain untold?

For the sins of His own nation,
She saw Jesus wracked with torment,
All with scourges rent:

She beheld her tender Child,
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth He sent.

O thou Mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with thine accord:

Make me feel as thou hast felt;
make my soul to glow and melt
with the love of Christ my Lord.

Holy Mother! pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my Savior crucified:

Let me share with thee His pain,
who for all my sins was slain,
who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with thee,
mourning Him who mourned for me,
all the days that I may live:

By the Cross with thee to stay,
there with thee to weep and pray,
is all I ask of thee to give.

Virgin of all virgins blest!,
Listen to my fond request:
let me share thy grief divine;

Let me, to my latest breath,
in my body bear the death
of that dying Son of thine.

Wounded with His every wound,
steep my soul till it hath swooned,
in His very Blood away;

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
lest in flames I burn and die,
in His awful Judgment Day.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,
be Thy Mother my defense,
be Thy Cross my victory;

While my body here decays,
may my soul Thy goodness praise,
Safe in Paradise with Thee.
Amen.

Holy Hotcakes!

In response to decisions of our Annual Meeting, it was decided to go in a few new directions for fundraising.

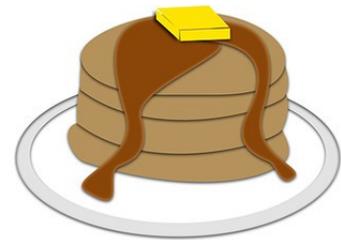
After reaching out to Rudy's bakery and consulting with the family, Susan Boehnlein and Steve Fesz approached the parish about having a Fat Tuesday event: pre-sold paczki from Rudy's in the morning and evening as well as a pancake and sausage "breakfast" dinner

The paczki sale went well, with a number of extra delicious paczki ordered for people to enjoy with their pancakes as well. Turns out that, although we had nearly a hundred to sell, they all somehow found a home before it was all said

and done!

Pancakes and sausage were made to order, with the first order containing 3 pancakes and 3 sausage links. Subsequent orders (it was all you can eat!) were by request. Fortunately, nobody came with the design to eat us out of house and home, but some unruly parishioner decided to bring his own half-gallon of milk to wash down his evening breakfast!

Thank you to all who supported or worked at our dinner. May it lead to even more success in the future.



Various Announcements

Season of Lent

The Season of Lent and our series of Lenten Devotions has begun. They take place Friday evenings at 6:30pm (please note the change in time for 2017).

Votive Candles

You may have noticed recently that the money boxes for the votive candles have been replaced and reinforced. For those who were iffy for a while on offering prayers and lighting candles, feel free to do so once again! Thanks to Steve Fesz and Jim Boehnlein for putting in the work to repair these items.

Lenten Cross

The Mission Team is again sponsoring the Lenten Prayer Cross. It was raised on Ash Wednesday and placed in the back, parking lot side corner of the church (Mary's corner – her statue and window reside there!). Please take on that Lenten discipline of increased prayer and devotion and plan on placing your prayers upon it.

Lenten Retreat

The 2017 Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate takes place March 25 at 10am at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI. There is no cost and transportation is provid-

ed – please see Fr. Jason if interested in attending – leaving by 7:45am, you'll be home by 4pm.

Lunch & a Movie

We will meet for lunch and movie on Tuesday, March 14 at the Cinema in Valley View to see *The Shack*, based on the 2007 book.

Afterward, we will head out to lunch. Times aren't released yet, but the matinee is usually around 10:30am for around \$6 – please plan on attending and enjoying with your church friends!

Bake Sale

The parish is asking anyone who is a baker to plan on baking something for Saturday, March 18th. The parish will be selling pierogi and would also like to have a baked-goods table. Please plan on bringing your baked goods over in time for the start of the 10am sale.

PHC Food Collection

St. Mary's is offering the chance at "directed Lenten denial", an avenue of the Lenten tradition of almsgiving by asking parishioners to offer goods that will be given to the Parma Hunger Center and distributed to our local community. For next week, the third Sunday in Lent, we ask for peanut butter and jelly. They can be placed on the table in the back corner of the church at

Joseph's corner, opposite the Lenten Cross. Cash donations can be made in the board room.

Bible Study

Our new round of Bible Study has begun! Last time, we went over the background and first chapter of the Book of Daniel. It isn't too late to join us!

Please speak to Fr. Jason if you are interested in attending on March 8 so he can catch you up on anything else.

Eastern European Dinner

On Tuesday, April 4 at the Bohemian National Hall/Sokol Greater Cleveland, the Eastern European Congress of Ohio hosts a dinner honoring Zoran Karic, former Cleveland Crunch Soccer player and featuring the former Slovenian Man of the Year, Dick Russ. It begins at 6pm and tickets are \$45. You must RSVP by calling 330-659-0961 or by emailing info@eecoh.org. Please see the bulletin board in the hall or visit www.eecoh.org for more information on the event & the organization.

Pierogi Making & Sale

We are in need of volunteers for pierogi making on Saturday, March 11 as we are making all three (potato and cheese, cheese, cabbage) types of pierogi. The parish will host a pierogi and bake sale the following Saturday, March 18th beginning at 10am.

LENT

PRAYER • FASTING • ALMSGIVING



*A note from your parish chair.....***Good Samaritan**

Perhaps some of you saw on the news, facebook, or other social media, on February 27th, the story of the "good Samaritan" that was in the right place at the right time. It was about a car crash that occurred on Broadview Road just north of Snow. A woman was pulled from one of the cars, unconscious and not breathing. A nursing assistant, Keith, saw what was happening and ran to assist. He began performing CPR immediately until paramedics arrived. That, we can truly say, *helped* save this woman's life as it was reported she was out of the hospital and doing well. The story proceeded to praise this man for what he did as well as interview him while on his job at the VA Medical Center. Sadly what they also reported was that this 23 year old woman was experiencing a heroin overdose! Something we hear all too often lately!!

I have to say that I heard details of this accident one week before it was featured on the news. How you may ask? Fr. Jason was there. He was another factor in saving this woman's life! He told of how he was returning from the gym that Sunday afternoon and saw something awful happen. Although unsure of what that awful event actually was, he immediately pulled over and ran to the scene assisting in getting the woman out of the car.

What was never mentioned in the news report was the fact that as the "good Samaritan" nursing assistant was performing CPR there was another "good Samaritan", seen in the video, anointing her with holy oils and praying over her -he was a priest- praying for God to help her! By no means am I undervaluing the actions of the man that was medically assisting; he did help save her life! God put him "in the right place at the right time". God also put Fr. Jason "in the right place at the right time". He was driving by at that exact moment for a reason and made the choice to stop and help in whatever way he could.

The more I heard the news report and saw the video, as it continued airing on February 28th news reports and scrolled across the bottom of the TV screen during the Today Show, the more bothered I got. It actually made me stop what I was supposed to be accomplishing that morning (don't tell Jim!) and put my thoughts in writing to share with you in this month's newsletter.

Why wasn't someone praying over the woman part of the story? Why wasn't it noticed? Why wasn't it important to "report" on the magnitude of believing that God is always with us and the power of prayer is an amazing thing?

This is not about personal gratification for Fr. Jason, I know he is not about that, but it is about faith, about proving and believing that God is in every part of our lives. He guides our every step. He gives us choices to make on a daily basis. Some situations may involve the choice of whether or not to come to the aid of others in need.

Right now our society is filled with violence, hatred, confusion, and evil. In this day of social media, when given the opportunity, shouldn't it undoubtedly be the time to remind and encourage people to follow God's teachings - to believe in the power of faith, prayer, and good over evil. Shouldn't the opportunity be taken to remind people that living as God instructs us, as good Christians, we can work toward rising above the evil around us and bring us the peace that God can provide.

As I said it was reported the woman was doing well. We can only wonder if she knows, I find it hard to believe she hasn't seen the video that went viral, that through Fr. Jason, God was putting his healing hands upon her. That during that horrible event that took place in her life on February 19th, God was giving her another chance at life.

We have just entered the season of Lent - a time of reflection, meditation, prayer and the anticipation of Christ's resurrection! Many years back I was taught by one of our previous pastors, Fr. Steve, that you don't necessarily have to *give up something* for Lent but in fact you can *take up something*: greater generosity; kindness; charity and so on. I am of course not telling you to change your practice of giving up whatever you choose, what I am asking you to consider is increasing acts of generosity, reaching out to others in need, helping those that are lost and hurting to see God's love, and choosing good over evil. Again, the news report left out that very significant part of the story; let's hope that along with all of us there are many others loudly proclaiming the magnificence experienced when we have faith and believe in God.

Let us all make a pledge to pray daily for the growth of our parish and all parishes in the Church; for a stronger personal faith; and for the healing of our society. May we turn to our Lord Jesus Christ in need, thank Him in abundance, and share His love with the world around us.

Thank you Fr. Jason for acting without hesitation to stop that Sunday afternoon and help that young woman who so desperately needed it. Let us keep her in prayer that her faith has been strengthened and she sees a new path that God has laid before her.

A note from your parish chair (cont).....



In the ever-changing circumstances of life, there's a faithful, never-changing God in control. Every day begins and ends with His purpose, every moment of our life is in His care. There isn't a detail that escapes His eye, or a trial that doesn't touch His heart.

Anonymous

Hmm, I Wonder....

If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches?
Since bread is square, then why is sandwich meat round?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in", but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?



If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride; he sticks his head out the window?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?



Let's get cookin'

Taken from the pages of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa (Albany, NY) PNCC Cookbook. Sounds like a good dish for Lent.



Spinach Casserole

- 2 pkgs frozen chopped spinach
- 1 T. grated onion
- 3/4 c. sharp cheese, grated
- 1 egg slightly beaten
- 1/4 c. butter
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1-3/4 c. herbed bread stuffing



Cook spinach as directed on package, drain well. Add onion, cheese, egg, butter, and soup. Mix thoroughly. Toss in stuffing, reserving 3/4 c. for topping. Place in greased casserole dish. Top with reserved stuffing. Dot with butter and back at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Helen Shooks

March Days of Note



- 7th – Bill Kastak
- 7th – Nate Ploskonka
- 17th – Linda Sobolewski
- 18th – Barb Bogzevitz
- 18th – Lauren O'Conner
- 19th – Karen Dicken
- 25th – David Adams
- 26th – Evonne Pryer
- 27th – Don Burger
- 28th – Michael Ference

The Stations (in English)

- I—Jesus Is Sentenced to Death
- II—Jesus Takes Up His Cross
- III—Jesus Falls the First Time
- IV—Jesus Meets His Mother
- V—Simon of Cyrene Helps Carry the Cross
- VI—Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus
- VII—Jesus Falls the Second Time
- VIII—Women of Jerusalem Weep over Jesus
- IX—Jesus Falls the Third Time
- X—Jesus is Stripped of His Garments
- XI—Jesus is Crucified
- XII—Jesus Dies on the Cross
- XIII—The Body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross
- XIV—The Body of Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Catholic School

A ten-year-old boy was failing math. His parents tried everything from tutors to hypnosis; but to no avail. Finally, at the insistence of a family friend, they decided to enroll their son in a private Catholic school.

After the first day, the boy's parents were surprised when he walked in after school with a stern, focused and very determined expression on his face. He went straight past them, right to his room and quietly closed the door.

For nearly two hours he toiled away in his room with math books strewn about his desk and the surrounding floor. He emerged long enough to eat, and after quickly cleaning his plate, went straight back to his room, closed the door, and worked feverishly at his studies until bed-time.

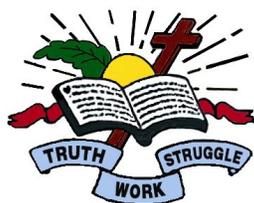
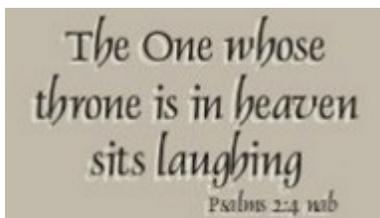
This pattern of behavior continued until it was time for the first quarter's report card. The boy walked in with it unopened, laid it on the dinner table and went straight to his room.

Cautiously, his mother opened it and, to her amazement, she saw a large red 'A' under the subject of Math. Overjoyed, she and her husband rushed into their son's room, thrilled at his remarkable progress. "Was it the nuns that did it?" the father asked. The boy shook his head and said "No."

"Was it the one-to-one tutoring? The peer-mentoring?" "No."

"The textbooks? The teachers? The curriculum?"

"No", said the son. "On that first day, when I walked in the front door and saw that guy nailed to the 'plus sign', I KNEW they meant business!"



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

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 Szydowski
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	Howard Dicken
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
Duda Family	Fr. Sr. John Kraus
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Johanna Markiewicz	Edna Samelson
	Wanda Heffner
Kim Blaha	Corey Wasko
Abby Sobolewski	Geri S.
Robert Winlock	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
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WE ALSO REMEMBER
ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN
Bless them, O Lord.

Visit us online at
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