

# St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

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view that begins with Christ. Christ advises us to love our enemies, no matter how we perceive them.

This act had no love. It was based on ideals taught to a kid...yes, 18 is technically an adult, but there are many reasons that this is still "a kid". This boy was taught...through inferences to a "lesser race", by throwaway phrases about skin color, with names or phrases that may seem innocent. Something was done to this boy to make him hate. Hate is not nature— it is 100% nurture.

So how do Christians move on? The affected parish in Charleston called for forgiveness, as Christ would deem. Many have called for the removal of that Confederate Flag—something anyone admits is barely a half-measure...but it's something.

Christians should continue to pray for equality. The Civil War is the darkest part of our nation's history. And though it will never happen here again, events of the last few months have really heated tensions, especially in our Cleveland area. We know Christ said to love our neighbor as self (Mark 12:31), that St. Paul said there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, for all are one in Christ (Gal

day, our guy showed up and then he left. One day, a guy visited their church and left carnage.

This story makes me sick to my stomach, even days later. We are taught at a young age the sanctity and safety of the church...and then hear of the largest mass murder in a religious institution on American soil.

On this day, Satan took the form of an average, skinny, white 18-year-old boy. In an old, historic city, a life of brewed hatred hit a fork, and the road less-traveled was chosen.

In the days since, the media/social media reaction has been both predictable and shocking.

Predictable are the bigots who have an issue with the calls for the Confederate Flag to be erased from this country. "But it has Christian roots, St. Andrew's "X" Cross! It was based on the Scottish Flag!" Swastikas also have a religious root, but the Lord knows what they have come to represent as well.

Without getting political, we should strive to look at this with a point-of-

## Hatred

*"With the Lord on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me?"*  
(Psalm 118:6)

Not terribly long ago, someone showed up at our parish's Bible Study. He didn't look quite like the rest of us, he seemed a bit nervous and out of place— uncomfortable. We, for our part, did our best to include him in our study, to make sure he had enough to eat and drink, and were pleased at the end of the day that we simply had another soul being fed The Word.

You can easily imagine the same thought process going through the parishioners and friends of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. As we are in prayer here at St. Mary's preparing for our 100th Anniversary, they are on the verge of their 200th. And their Bible is roughly the same size as ours.

The comparisons end there. One

## Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

3:28).

I don't know how to get to that point. But I do know we have to trust God. We need to continue to keep our doors open to the community around us. We need to keep up the Mission of our Church and parish, to Evangelize to any and everyone who walks through our doors.

It pains me to know that people's minds will wander to dark thoughts whenever someone "strange" walks through church doors for the next few months. A new soul entering our church buildings should be something to rejoice about...but minds will wander.

The church is our safe-haven—it should be free from hatred, stress, fighting, politics, cliques, and shame. At least, that is how Christ left the church. Humans have done a number on it...but it leaves room for improvement.

I don't expect any of these words to change anyone's mind or heart over anything. Priests need to vent sometimes, too. To see hatred come alive and have access to people who condone such acts is an amazing feat of technology, sad as it may be. Extreme views are media bait—don't be fooled!

Pray for these souls' release, for the families affected, for a par-

ish in pain. Pray for peace, understanding, and for parents and caretakers to further understand the potential impact of their personal views on race on children around them.

Hateful acts have no place in our society, and it hurts ever-harder when something breaks through that dimension of church. As I opened with verse 6 of Psalm 118, disregarding the effect of mortals on our temporal life, I close with verse 7—our trust in Him that is forever.

*"The Lord is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me" (Psalm 118:7)*

Fr. Jason

## Western Diocesan Clergy Retreat & Conference



Rev. Charles Zawistowski (St. Mary's-South Bend, IN) was the retreat master, focusing on "the power of the priest". Interesting, eye-opening meditations and discussion about how we, as priests, allow Christ to work through us.

The 2015 Western Diocesan Clergy Retreat and Conference took place from June 3-5 at All Saints Cathedral Parish in Park Ridge, IL.

Most of the clergy of the diocese were represented in these three days of prayer, contemplation, discussion, and work.

*Above They're just like us! Doritos and soda (ugh-pop.) Right: Fr. Jason and crew....yes, we are all priests here!*



THIS IS SO AWESOME!!!

Written By Regina Brett, 90 years old, of The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio

"To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I've ever written.

- > 1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
- > 2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
- > 3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
- > 4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
- > 5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
- > 6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
- > 7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
- > 8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
- > 9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
- > 10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
- > 11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
- > 12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
- > 13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- > 14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
- > 15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
- > 16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
- > 17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
- > 18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
- > 19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
- > 20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
- > 21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, and wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. *Today is special.*
- > 22. Over-prepare, then go with the flow.
- > 23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
- > 24. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
- > 25. Frame every so-called disaster with these words "In five years, will this matter?"
- > 26. Always choose life.
- > 27. Forgive everyone everything.
- > 28. What other people think of you is none of your business.
- > 29. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
- > 30. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
- > 31. Don't take yourself so seriously-- No one else does.
- > 32. Believe in miracles.
- > 33. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
- > 34. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
- > 35. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
- > 36. Your children get only one childhood.
- > 37. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
- > 38. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
- > 39. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
- > 40. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
- > 41. The best is yet to come.
- > 42. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
- > 43. Yield.
- > 44. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.
- > 45. Friends are the family that we choose for ourselves. Remember, I will always share my spoon with you!

# St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

## Solemnity of Corpus Christi

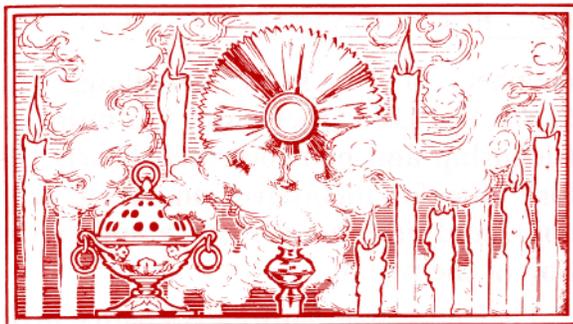
The Solemnity of Corpus Christi was held on Sunday, June 7 here at St. Mary's.

Holy Mass at 9am featured not only the super-long Corpus Christi sequence; it also, for the first time in many years here, closed with the traditional Eucharistic Corpus Christi Procession to the Four Altars.

As Mass closed, Fr. Jason, assisted by Fr. Greg and Chuck Repede, processed with the Love of God Sodality to the St. Joseph Altar, the back two corners of the church where temporary altars had been erected, to the St. Mary Altar, and finally, closing at the Altar of Sacrifice.

It was a bit different from what

the parishioners were used to...and it made for a rather long celebration of Holy Mass. However, the reviews were positive as the presence of Christ in the Eucharist certainly prevailed on all in attendance for this day.



The Solemnity of  
Corpus Christi



## Various Announcements

### PolishFest

The PolishFest has concluded!!! This issue of our Newsletter is late to print. Please keep an eye on next month's Newsletter in order to gather in order to see some pictures, numbers, and plans going forth.

### 100th Anniversary Planning

A meeting was held June 28 regarding the plans going forward concerning our 100th Anniversary celebration on the weekend of October 10th & 11th. Note that the Centennial Mass will be celebrated on the 10th with the banquet to follow at Pokrova Hall. Sunday morning the 11th, there will be only one Mass at 10am with a breakfast to follow. More info will arrive shortly regarding our celebrations

### NUC Convention

The National United Choirs (NUC) Convention and Workshop takes place this week from Tuesday through Friday at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA. Dr. Jim Ploskonka and our organist Chris Paulus will attend, representing our parish and choir. We keep the musical work of our church in

prayer this week.

### Youth Events

The Polish National Catholic Church and the Western Diocese are providing an avenue for children to spiritually retreat this summer: The Western Diocesan Youth Retreat takes place at the Michindoh Conference Center in Hillsdale, MI from July 27-30. Please speak to Fr. Jason if your child is interested in attending this with him. Grants are available to defray the cost of attendance.

### Bible Study

A new Bible Study has kicked off. We have begun to dig into St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. Our study takes place the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6pm (see our calendar). We begin with soup, bread, dessert, and fellowship and conclude with our hour-or –so long study. We are always open to having new attendees— parishioners or otherwise.

### Polish Language Class

An opportunity has arisen for the parish to host a "Conversational Polish Language Class." The Parish Board has discussed it and

decided to see how appealing this would be to all parishioners. Please speak to Steve Fesz if interested.

### Golf Tournament

The 1st Annual National YMSofR Golf Tournament has been announced for August 22nd. Please contact David Micka, Fr. Jason, or Bruce Bogzevitz for more information or please email [unitedymsofr@gmail.com](mailto:unitedymsofr@gmail.com)

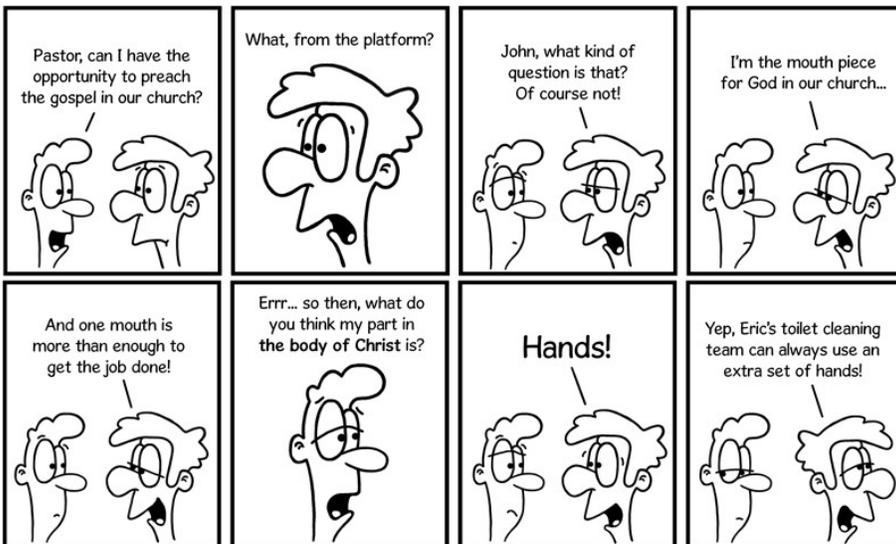
Help Benefit  
THE Y.M.S. OF R.  
YOUTH FUND

1ST ANNUAL NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Skyland Golf Course,  
Hinckley, OH

Saturday  
August 22, 2015

MAKE THE HOLE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



Comic Title:

SearchingforGrace.com © Mick Mooney

## July Days of Note



- 4<sup>th</sup> – Jolanta Misiewicz
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Ann Kerik
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Chris Paulus
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Frank Dominik
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Father Jason
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sara Long
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Jennifer LeMessina
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Martha Repede
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Joan Kastak
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Fesz
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Susan Harper
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Sandra Harper



- 14<sup>th</sup> — John & Andrea Grmovsek
- 20<sup>th</sup> — Michael & Carole D'Arcy
- 21<sup>st</sup> — Jim & Elaine Ploskonka
- 27<sup>th</sup> — Mike & Chris Paulus



God's Field/Rola Boza is mainly available online now. Subscriptions are available by contacting the offices of the Polish National Catholic Church at 570-346-9131. Rola Boza can be accessed by visiting [www.pncc.org](http://www.pncc.org), clicking on the "God's Field" tab at the top, and clicking on "current issue" or any of the past issues listed. You must have a pdf reader to download.

Straz/The Guard, the official publication of the Polish National Union, is available by visiting [www.strazprinters.com](http://www.strazprinters.com). Members should receive a copy in the mail every other month.

## We'll Get Through This

Lord, our troubles  
Are so great,  
We don't know what to do;  
The price for our  
Iniquity  
Is finally coming due.

The world is crumbling  
All about;  
No safe place can be found.  
Right is wrong,  
Wrong is right;  
The change is quite profound.

Lord, we need  
Your guiding light  
To lead us out of here;  
We'll focus on  
Your Word, and prayer,  
To take away our fear.

Temptations of  
This dying world  
We'll rule out and let go;  
Give our burdens  
All to you,  
Shed all worldly woe.

That's how we'll  
Get through this, Lord,  
Fixed on heaven above,  
Assured of your  
protection, help,  
And everlasting love.

*By Joanna Fuchs*



## Our Prayer List

### Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Marlane Oleniacz	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig & Judy Atherton	John Spilka
Louise Cygan	Edward Basiewicz
Mary Ann Loschelder	June Zaun
Alison Jambor	

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Colby Howard
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Oliver Kuta	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol & Chuck Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Joanel Rollen	Veronica Babic
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Don and Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Jack Amburgey, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Chuck Zaranski
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
Chuck Zaranski	Madilyn Perry
Elsa Vogl de Gomez	Joyce Dicken
Kim Blaha	John Clark Sr.
Tom Bowen	Greg Soucie
Robert Winlock	Veronica Babic

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

Shirley Paulus	Tony Mudrak
Gene Mora	Ted Jurczyk
	Polly Gajda

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

