

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

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

**November 2017**

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## Golden Rules

When I was a young kid growing up in Naugatuck, CT, I spent a lot of time being hustled around town in the family car (84 Dodge Diplomat) or, later, the family minivan (93 Plymouth Voyager). Omnipresent through these vehicles were the sounds of my dad's radio.

He didn't have much variety—it was Doobie Brothers tapes, Jesus Christ Superstar, 70's Classic Rock, and talk radio. I learned from a very young age that Rush Limbaugh ruled the afternoon and that AM radio commercials were obnoxiously repetitive.

There was a commercial for...maybe it was a grocery store...that always popped up mid summer that had a jingle that made a child's stomach churn. It melodically sang "School Days, School Days, dear old Golden Rule Days!"

Being a \*Dad\*, he never missed the opportunity to continue singing this and reminding us of the imminent doom that was school coming back in session in 5 weeks...then 3



weeks...then 6 days...

*(Note: upon doing a handy-dandy Youtube search, it turns out this "jingle" was a chart-topping song by a guy named Byron G. Harlan in 1907. You ruined my summers, Harlan!!!)*

The Golden Rule is something I was taught at a public elementary school in the first grade. I remember it, because it just so happened to be around the same time that Gospel popped up on a Sunday (priest's kids don't miss church!). It just so happened to pop up again recently.

In Mrs. Bailey's 1988 1st Grade class, I confidently stated those were Jesus's rules, that is what made them golden. Such wisdom! Unfortunately, she was quick to deflect Jesus from the conversation, saying it was taught in schools since she was a little girl. Ok then!

Jesus explains the original Golden Rule from St. Matthew's Gospel (22:36-40) on the 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time. It is in response to the question "'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?'" He simply gives the answer "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it:

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You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

In writing to the people of Rome (*Romans 13:9b-10*), St. Paul doubles down on the teaching of Jesus: "whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law."

Why was this reiterated by Paul to the Romans? Why did the perfect words of Jesus need to be re-formed for those listeners? Many believe it was because of the reputation that Jewish preachers had.

As Jesus walked the earth trying to diffuse the strict adherence to man-made law and to turn to God...word spread that it was a purely law-based religion. And at that point in time, this reasoning wasn't far off. So when the Romans heard Paul speak of the idea of love being the most important thing...it was confusing!

St. Paul writes further about a number of traditional Jewish (Godly) beliefs to the Romans, only to bring "God" and not "law" as explanation and reason for each one. Seems like it isn't a very novel concept in the eyes of religion...but things got pretty messed up there for a while!

Our faith evolved then and continues to do so: be open to it! *Fr. Jason*

### Animal Blessing

On Wednesday, October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, pets were blessed here in our parking lot on a breezy, seasonal autumn day.

As you can see from the pictures, there was a healthy mix of mostly dogs and cats. There were no canine or feline shenanigans this year...at least, none that we know of!

Father Jason led the prayer service along with Cleric Jim. The service included a call for protection amongst all of God's creatures, some singing, and readings and petitions. Chuck Repede offered a portion of the readings.



Many thanks to our parish chairperson, Elaine Ploskonka, who always makes up doggy (and kitty) bags for our guests-of-honor to take home. The wagging tails let her know how appreciated this was.

Thank you to all who attended and enjoyed the short service—we'll see you all next year on St. Francis of Assisi Day!





### Clergy Appreciation

On Sunday, October 15, the Mission Team of St. Mary's took time after the 9am Mass to recognize our clergy in recognition of October's Clergy/Pastor Appreciation Month.

Father Jason Soltysiak, our Pastor, Father Greg Gronn, retired priest, and Cleric James Ploskonka were all recognized for what they do and will continue to do for the spiritual welfare of the parishioners and visitors of St. Mary's.

They were then presented with a cake (pictured...mmm— it was made out of cupcakes, tons of icing!) and thoughtful cards and gifts.

Much appreciation from the three clergy here for your recognition and prayers.



# clergy appreciation month

### Various Announcements

#### All Souls Day 2017

All Souls Service was held in the church rather than the cemetery last Sunday due to the weather. Graves were blessed by Father Jason, Father Greg, and Cleric Jim this past Thursday. Remembrances will continue to be read at the beginning of Sunday Masses and can be submitted through Nov. 26 — you'll note that the prayers for the dead are removed from the Intercessions as we begin Mass with said prayers.

#### Craft Fair & Soup Sale

Thank you to all who supported our Autumn Craft Fair, our YMSofR Soup Sale, and Sodality Bake Sale. A lot of work and planning goes into these events, so we want to especially thank Mary Ann Kasperczyk for her continued great work in chairing this event, to Ron Ference for leading the soup sale, and to the ladies of the

Sodality. Many thanks to all who supported this event with your patronage, kitchen skills, and everything in-between. *Bóg Zapłać!*

#### Winter Clothing Drive

The United YMSofR is once again calling for all parishes in the PNCC to have a winter clothing drive. Branch #29 would like to make sure we participate! See inside cover.

#### Christmas Basket Raffle

Per the (wonderful) usual, the PTO will be sponsoring a Christmas Basket Raffle in the upcoming weeks. They are always looking for donations — Please see Marge O'Connor or Debbie Moritz for any suggestions or questions on how you can help.

#### Operation Christmas Child

Our collection is complete! Thank you to all who donated — we col-

lected 30+ boxes this year—stay tuned next month for pictures.

#### Hygiene Kits

We are always looking for items to collect. We are in need of travel-size toothpaste and toothbrushes. Please bring these and other travel-sized items to church.

#### Parish Committee

Some parishioners will be approached in the coming weeks regarding serving on the Parish (Committee) Board. The ministry of administration is very important in the PNCC — please consider

#### Kielbasa Making

Kielbasa making takes place on Saturday, December 2. Please sell, sell, sell! Everyone is invited to help us out with our preparation.

#### Advent Food Drive

Advent begins on December 3rd this year—start collecting non-perishable items for our annual food drive.



### Chili Cook-Off

Branch #29 of the YMSofR held its (mostly) annual Chili Cook-off on Sunday October 15 after the 11am Holy Mass.

Our day featured a multitude of chilis prepared by parishioners, a number of raffle prizes just for showing up, and voting for the best traditional and non-traditional chili.

It barely is worth mentioning that we gather for a viewing of the Cleveland Browns latest debacle. Some guy named Kevin (not Hulk) Hogan led the local team to a typical 17-33 loss.

At least the chili was good! Best traditional chili was awarded to Barb Fesz and best non-traditional chili was awarded to Michele Misiewicz-Barry.

Thanks to all who attended. Rumor is next year we may do a Patriots game instead—we need a win at one of these cook-offs!





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

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### PNCC Future Directions September Update

The Solemnity of All Saints  
November 1, 2017

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Church,

As we draw to a close this Year of Commitment across our Polish National Catholic Church we are called to commit ourselves to living thankful lives. St. Paul writes in his letter to the Colossians (3:17): whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Are we grateful for the blessings God has given us? Are we thankful for our faith, our family and our church? Do we show our thankfulness in the manner in which we live our daily lives? How does your parish show thankfulness to God for His many blessings? Some items for consideration during this month especially: Thanksgiving food drives, providing Thanksgiving meals to those in need or alone, drives to support homeless veterans (clothing, food, other items) and don't forget national collection week for Operation Christmas Child begins November 13. Just a couple of ways we can show our thankfulness by living as our Lord commands.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (2010 PNCC Prayer Book):

Father all powerful, Your gifts are countless and Your goodness infinite. We come to You, O God, offering our most humble and heartfelt thanks for the many blessings we have received from You. Open our hearts to the needs of others, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service. Teach us to express our thanksgiving not only with our lips, but in all that we do. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

As we gather for Holy Mass on Thanksgiving Day one of the Gospel selections is from St. Luke 17:11-19: On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Also during November we draw to a close our Liturgical Year with the Solemnity of Christ the King. As we approach the days of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are we putting the words of Jesus which we hear on the Solemnity of Christ the King into action in our lives?

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at [FutureDirection@pncc.org](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church. Also please keep in prayer the clergy of our church as will gather for the National Clergy Conference in just two weeks. They will be giving significant input on our next year of Future Direction efforts.


May we show our thankfulness to God not just in our words, but more importantly by our actions. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**PNCC Future Direction Committee**

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*



Give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good; His love endures forever.  
- Psalm 118:1

## November Days of Note



### November

5	-	Ron Ference
6	-	Alice Petrie
7	-	Kathleen Beres
11	-	Mike Matis
15	-	Mary Ann Loschelder
16	-	Craig Atherton
16	-	Mike Paulus
21	-	Krista O'Connor
22	-	Josephine Ference
24	-	Jeff Dreger
25	-	Michael Petrie
29	-	Barb Baranowski
29	-	Eliza Dreger



### November

5— Dale & Pattie Dotson

## "A Thanksgiving Day Prayer"

Lord, so often times,  
as any other day  
When we sit down  
to our meal and pray

We hurry along  
and make fast the blessing  
Thanks, amen.  
Now please pass the dressing

We're slaves to the  
olfactory overload  
We must rush our prayer  
before the food gets cold

But Lord, I'd like to take  
a few minutes more  
To really give thanks  
for what I'm thankful for

For my family, my health,  
a nice soft bed  
My friends, my freedom,  
a roof over my head

I'm thankful right now  
to be surrounded by those  
Whose lives touch me more  
than they'll ever possibly know

Thankful Lord, that You've  
blessed me beyond measure  
Thankful that in my heart  
lives life's greatest treasure

That You, dear Jesus,  
reside in that place  
And I'm ever so grateful  
for Your unending grace

So please, heavenly Father,  
bless this food You've provided  
And bless each and every  
person invited  
--Scott Wesemann

## Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig Atherton	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Len Pryer
Marty Bengala	Gerald Beres
Elaine Rzonca	Frank Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Chester & Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Gail Perz	Amy Dreger

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Sharon Seitz
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Mark & Kim Andreas	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Al Tomasello
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	Bill Chambers Sr.
Wanda Heffner	Geri S.
Donna Kidd	Colleen Howard
Muffie B.	Nancy Jablonowski
Marilyn Girard	Larry Hoekstra
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Colleen Fisteck
Marcia Klein	Mike Sikut
Larry Bernacki	

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](http://www.stmaryspncc.org)

GIVE Thanks  
to the LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD;  
HIS Love ENDURES  
FOREVER!