

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2024

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Keepin' Time

Calendars are interesting, aren't they?

Though that rhetorical question got some proverbial crickets chirping, I felt like calendars could be addressed in this newsletter due to a few things that happen in the church calendar as well as being fueled by some inspiration from what our Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky wrote in the February 2024 issue of God's Field/Rola Boza.

In the opening paragraph of his article, he reminded us Polish National Catholics that: "Because of the calendar calculations this year, the celebration of Easter is rather quite early, March 31, 2024. In fact, it is somewhat rare that Easter occurs in March, but it is bound up with the coming of Spring and the phases of the moon. Easter occurs on the Sunday following the full moon following the Spring equinox, which is March 21. Therefore, Easter can be any day from March 22 to April 25."

I will add that for the sake of this article, Ash Wednesday is calculated just by going back 6 Sundays and a Wednesday. It can fall as early as February 4 and as late as March 10.

As Christianity began to spread in the days after Pentecost, it was heavily influenced by the cultures and cities where individual churches were plant-

ed. Christian churches in Rome were very Roman, those in Greece were very Greek, those in and around Jerusalem, were very Jewish. These "inside" influences, as well as those from other outside religions really brought into question how the church was going to function on various levels.

One of them was time...calendars. Most of the world currently uses the Gregorian Calendar, which went into effect in 1582 at the papal bull (or formal declaration) of Pope Gregory XIII. It wasn't rocket science, per se...but it was based on a better understanding of the cosmos than



1582		OCTOBER					1582	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
	1	2	3	4	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
31								

when the Julian calendar went into effect in 46 BC. Bearing Julius Caesar's name, it likened the calendar to exactly 365.25 days long: 3 years and a leap year. Science showed the math was a bit off, and on March 1st of this year in "our" Gregorian Calendar...it is still February 17th on the Julian Calendar, 13 days lagging...and falling behind farther with each passing year. Just take a peek at the picture below of the October 1582 calendar— 11 days were lopped-off at that papal bull to make things "right".

Where the church has had a major impact on the world in "timekeeping", they had decisions to make early on. The Jewish calculation of time in the time of Christ and the Apostles (and still today) runs from sundown-to-sundown – 1 full day. The Sabbath begins at sundown Friday, and concludes at sundown Saturday. With Christianity emanating from Jerusalem, this means the Christian sabbath was from sundown Saturday to Sundown Sunday – all is good!

But then...the church grew beyond Jerusalem. The Greeks tracked days



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Opening Article (Con't)

from sun-up to sun-up... Sunrise on Sunday to Sunrise on Monday. And then, the Romans calculated time like we do secularly: midnight to midnight. For a period of time, this created much confusion, especially to traveling Christians. Theoretically, one could begin our Lord's day in Jerusalem on a Saturday evening and end it in Greece early Monday morning!

Ultimately, while the Church theoretically follows the original Jewish religious "keeping of hours" (think, if a parish has a

vigil Mass on a Saturday late afternoon/evening before the Sunday celebration, traditional Sunday vespers to end the Lord's day), it still follows that Roman idea of midnight-to-midnight at times- or else, Midnight Mass would never have had any shine!

Since calendars can be fickle, as Prime Bishop referenced above, the PNCC has a liturgical landmine in the middle of the Lenten Season – the Solemnity of the Institution of

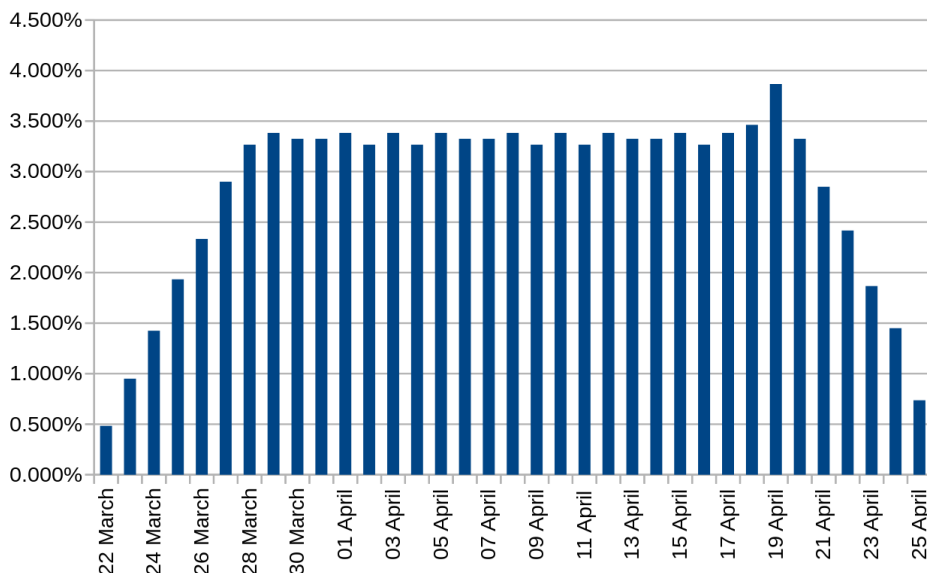
the PNCC, each year on the 2nd Sunday of March. During the celebration of this Mass, Lent takes a pause for this great solemnity of our Polish National Catholic Faith.

Unless it doesn't! While this Solemnity normally supersedes whichever Sunday of Lent it falls upon, there are two exceptions...and we are smack in the middle between these exceptions occurring! In 2019, Lent began quite late, which meant that the First Sunday of Lent fell on March 10th...the 2nd Sunday of Lent, usually the above Solemnity. However, the Gospel of the Temptation of our Lord paints such an incredible picture to begin the Lenten season that it cannot ever be missed! And, in 2027, an exceptionally early start to Lent means that the 2nd Sunday of March, usually Solemnity, is Passion Sunday, or the 5th Sunday of Lent. The PNCC has kept the 2-week season of Passiontide as a solemn one, and the 5th Lenten Sunday can't be bumped for the PNCC Solemnity. When this "bumping" takes place (the official term is "translated"), the Mass for the Institution of the PNCC is then celebrated that Monday morning.

With all of that calendar knowledge in your back pocket now, may our days of Lent be kept holy in our traditional increased prayer (use an app!) fasting (use an app!) and almsgiving (don't use an app!).
Fr. Jason

Distribution of the date of Easter

(Complete 5,700,000-year cycle)



Pre-Lent Concludes

The short season of Pre-Lent took place from late January through the first part of February. The clergy wore rose vestments as the Gloria was removed from the Mass, amongst other changes. Candlemas, or the Solemnity of the Presentation of our Lord took place on Friday, February 2nd, with the blessing of candles occurring to open Holy Mass.

That Sunday, February 4th, the throats of the faithful were blessed in honor of St. Blaise by Fr. Greg and Fr. Jason to conclude Holy Mass. Fr. Jim

brought some blessed candles to bless the faithful at All Saints PNCC in Sterling Heights, MI that morning.



Blanket Ministry

The Mission Team of St. Mary's has been wonderful in its preparation of prayer blankets for those in need from our parish and beyond. The Team is willing and excited that people reach out to a member or to the clergy in order to have a blanket blessed for a loved one.

This has organically led to the opening of coffee hour beginning with a prayer and blessing by the priest. He then invites the faithful in the Fellowship Hall to lay his or her hand upon the newly-blessed blanket.



This often, but not always, includes information on who it is being blessed for and perhaps, what the ailment or particular need may be.



Fat Tuesday Events

Fat Tuesday was enjoyed by many at the friendly confines of our parish. Supporters came in the morning to pick up pre-ordered Michealangelo's paczki, enjoying a breakfast sweet along with a free parish-provided cup of coffee.

In the evening, the annual Holy Hotcake Dinner was held in the Fellowship Hall. Stacks of pancakes along with sausage links were served by the plateful.

Thank you to everyone who sorted, boxed, and served paczki, as well as

to all of those involved in the planning and the execution of the evening's pancake dinner.

Paczki Day



SHROVE TUESDAY

"Shrove" is the past tense of the word "shrive," which means to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that we are entering a season of penance.



FAT TUESDAY

A day of feasting before the fasting season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Feast, for tomorrow we fast!

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Pierogi Dinner

On Friday, February 23, the first of two Lenten Pierogi Dinners took place at our parish of St. Mary's. This first iteration, from 4-6pm, featured 4 deep-fried pierogi, optional fried onions, sour cream, cole slaw or applesauce, a choice of either broccoli cheddar soup or mushroom barley soup, dessert and drink.

Steve F. and Jim B. started the fryer early, making sure with a few test batches that the pierogi were fried to

perfection. They said it took about a dozen trials to figure it out, but humble men they are, we are sure it was accomplished on the first try. The hall was arranged and decorated by members of the Dotson family and a stout team of devoted workers arrived, beginning with a solo onion fryer early afternoon. Bakery was arranged, coleslaw scooped, onions transferred to the warmer and all the accoutrements

were in place as the crowd arrived.

A healthy group of parishioners and visitors came for a meatless Friday evening treat. Everyone enjoyed the dinner; so much so that we will be having another one in the latter part of Lent!



Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser

St. Mary's held a restaurant fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse in Brooklyn, OH at Ridge Park Square on Tuesday, February 6. This is the first of a series of 2024 restaurant fundraisers.

Parishioners and friends dined on blooming onions, steaks, salads, and about a million warm rolls with cinnamon butter. Thank you to all who supported this venture!



Ash Wednesday & Lenten Devotions

The liturgies of Ash Wednesday were held at noon and at 7pm on February 14. The Noon service featured the Litany of the Passion of our Lord as well as the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes. At 7pm, Ashes were blessed preceding Holy Mass, then distributed to the clergy and the faithful.

That Friday, February 16, the weekly series of Lenten Devotions began with Stations of the Cross. We were blessed with a new altar server, getting his feet wet before his Sunday morning debut by attending the Friday evening para-liturgicals.

Fr. Jason is preaching each Friday on the Final Week of the life of Christ before the Resurrection, each week preaching on the events of the day, beginning with (Palm) Sunday on Friday the 16th and going from there.



Super Bowl Squares

Branch #29 of the YMSofR, with its "profiteering commissioner" Ron Ference held a Super Bowl Squares Fundraiser.

Response was great! So much so that a second board was introduced and sold out as well. As Kansas City defeated San

Francisco once again, we say congratulations to our winners: Brady & Damion (1st Q), John Kasperczyk & Ron Ference (2nd/3rd Q), Steve Fesz & Chuck Repede (4th Q) and Gene Stepanik & Chris Paulus (Overtime).

We'll do it again in the Fall for our chili cook-off!



Recap of the January and February Parish Committee Meeting Minutes

Our newly elected Committee Members (Carole D'Arcy and Stella Pietka) were welcomed. Father Jason Soltysiak thanked everyone who stayed after mass for the Advent retreat. A short Lenten retreat is being planned. Fr. Jason visited six homes for Epiphany blessings. He would love to increase that number in 2025.

Fundraisers:

Our next dine-out fundraiser is Texas Roadhouse planned for early February
Holy Hotcakes dinner and paczki sale is again planned for Fat Tuesday
Dine-in or Carry-out Fried Pierogi Dinner will take place Friday, February 23rd – The Mission and Love of God Sodality groups are hosting this fundraiser
Kolaczki will be sold for Easter

Fr. Jason led the Annual Fundraiser meeting on February 8th, lots of ideas were discussed and will be re-searched. During the February Committee meeting it was decided to have a weekly 50/50 raffle with winning tickets drawn during coffee hour (the winner must be present to win).

Buildings & Grounds

The basement boiler vent was leaking and replaced, the expansion tank was full of water and drained. Everything is working.

The rectory's awning was loosened during a storm, new anchors were attached
Concern about the outside lights not being on was addressed. It was explained that the church often experiences brief power outages. The outages affect the timer for the lights as well as the church chimes.

The stair lifts have been repaired

Walk-in freezer handle needs attention, Steve Fesz "fixed" it during the meeting. It was just "frozen" from condensation from the door being left open too long.

New LED bulbs were installed in the fixtures in the nave (main area) of the church by Tom and Cherie Kugler

All the church fire extinguisher are out of date and need to be replaced.

The basement kitchen stove hood was re-certified and must be recertified every six months.

As required by the PNCC Constitution a proposed budget for 2024 was distributed and discussed. Approximately 5% has been added to the 2023 figures while the budgeted amounts for utilities and fundraisers was increased 10%. The Committee approved the budget to present to the parishioners at the Annual Meeting where it was also approved.

Property insurance – increasing 55%. Bids from other carriers have been requested. The church and property have an estimated value between \$2.6 and \$3.9 million.

St. Mary's is hosting the United Choirs meeting in April and the Bowling Tournament in May.

YMS of R and helpers sorted clothing donations. The donations were donated to and picked-up by [Rise in Love](#). This is a charitable Christian-based organization operating in northeast Ohio.

The March Committee meeting is March 18th at 5pm – all are welcome.

This recap was provided by our parish chair, Susan Boehnlein, and represents a snippet of our monthly meetings!

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Various Announcements

CANON – Today, and for all March we use the 4th Canon on p. 88.

BIBLE STUDY – A new Bible Study continues this week on “The 12 Disciples”. Please consider joining our group, even if just for an evening!

PIEROGI DINNER #2 – Our first Lenten pierogi dinner in February was so well-received we have decided to run it back! Our second dinner will take place Friday, March 15. More info coming!

LENTEN CROSS – The Mission Team is again sponsoring the Lenten Prayer Cross. Please take on that Lenten discipline of increased prayer and devotion and plan on placing your prayers upon it.

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION – We have begun a 4-week guided Food Collection. We are collecting on behalf of our Food Ministry as well as the Parma Hunger Center, located at Parma Lutheran. We are partnering with the Polish National Alliance spring program “Roll Away the Stone of Hunger”. For next Sunday, March 10, please bring canned and/or dried fruits and vegetables, applesauce, etc.

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER? – St.

Mary's is taking a different path on our next scheduled Restaurant Fundraiser. Titled “Skip a Night Out for Lent”, we are inviting parishioners and friends to *not* go out to eat; rather, we will be providing thematic envelopes in Sunday, March 10th bulletin. We hope you would consider a free-will donation to St. Mary's in acknowledging the solemnity of Lent by *not* going out and placing it in the collection basket or dropping it off in the Board Room throughout March. Please include your name- as a post-Lenten treat, we will pull a lucky name from the *event* and award a gift card to a local restaurant.

PAMPHLETS – Looking for a bit more info regarding your personal relationship with fasting and penance during this Lent? The PNCC has prepared pamphlets about each subject – they are printed out and available in front of the parish mailboxes – take one!

SENIORATE LENTEN RETREAT– Takes place at Resurrection PNCC in Temperance, MI from 10a-2pm Saturday, March 16. Breakfast & lunch provided. If interested in attending, please let Fr. Jason know so transportation can be situated. Flyers posted.

DEVOTIONS—Friday nights feature 6pm

Lenten Devotions- each week we walk the Stations of the Cross or offer Bitter Lamentations. Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held Mar.15.

KIELBASA – The choir is taking orders for their famous fresh kielbasa at \$6/lb. Pickup is March 23 from 1-3pm.

FR. JIM—In his weekly Mass celebrations (Usually Thursdays at 8am) throughout 2024, he will be remembering the parishes and pastors of the Western Diocese – you'll see these noted in the weekly schedule.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP – Info for scholarships from the National United Choirs is available– see Chris Paulus or Fr. Jim.

SAVE THE DATE – St. Mary's will be hosting the National PNCC Bowling Tournament for the first time in over a decade! It will be Memorial Day Weekend, with bowling on May 25.

WORD OF GOD STUDY of the Western Diocese for the 2024 Lenten Season continues to be held via Zoom 8pm Tuesday evenings on March 5 and 12. The focus will be “The Lamb's Supper” by Scott Hahn and will be facilitated by Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk and Fr. Jim Ploskonka. See Fr. Jim for details.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

March 3 – Helen Kasperczyk (Anniversary) of. by John & Eileen Kasperczyk & family

March 10 – Gregorio Alfonso of. by Ramon & Carmen Torres & family

March 17 – Joan Spilka of. by husband John Spilka

March 24 – Frank & Helen Satola of. by Bruce & Barb Bogzevitz

March 31— Easter Sunday—no intention taken

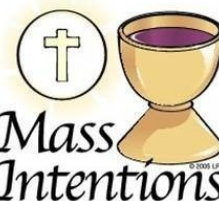
April 7 – Gene Mora of. by daughter Cherie Kugler

April 14 — Ed Gronn of. by son Rev. Greg Gronn (Mass Celebrant)

April 21 – Rose, Walter, & Edward Franczak of. by John Spilka

April 28 – Raymond J. Kovach of. by Cheryl Repko

Next 6 months open dates: July 7; Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25; Sep 1, 8, 15, 29



March Days of Note



March Birthdays

- 7th – Bill Kastak
- 8th – Gail Perz
- 11th – Mark Avondet
- 17th – Linda Sobolewski
- 18th – Barb Bogzevitz
- 18th – Lauren O’Conner
- 19th – Karen Colwell
- 25th – Marty Bengela
- 26th – Evonne Pryer
- 28th – Kathy Samelson
- 30th – Jeanette Chambers
- 30th – Linda Sydorenko
- 31st – Patty Bennett



March Anniversaries

None— Most of March is always during Lent...and it is hard to get married during Lent at a Catholic Church! One of the only permissible days during let to get married is March 19, St. Joseph’s Day

Have we missed a birthday or anniversary? Just give us a shout so we can fix any errors that have been made :-)

“The Season of Lent”

Return to God in forty days!
Walk in His steps -Emulate Christ;
Follow the shadow of His cross;
Lent is the Spring within the Church.

Christ went to the desert to fast;
He made his heart in spirit strong;
In Lent reflect upon soul's state
By introspection, meditate.

When body's weak, the mind is clear;
In fasted state, one turns divine;
We learn to live like Jesus Christ;
He tells us how to bear our cross.

When satan tested Jesus Christ,
The Lord had won the temptations;
We can defeat the devil's sway;
The grace of God fills heart and soul.

Reconciliate you, with the Lord.
Just for this, Lent is the time meant;
It is so specially God-sent;
So, gain his forgiveness- Repent.

By Dr. John Celes

The
Season
of
Lent



*

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary’s Parishioners & Friends

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer | Bob Kaczmarek |
| Bill Kastak | Anna Dawidziuk |
| George Makovicka | John Spilka |
| Johanna Markiewicz | Patrick Kmitt |
| Jim Boehnlein | Sauna Smullen |
| Marty Bengela | Tom Putynski |
| Jeff Pardy | Millie Dominik |
| Kathleen Beres | Joseph Bischoff |
| David Micka & Al Micka | Phil Symons |
| Ed Pierson | George Bennett |
| Greg Hodor | Pattie Dotson |
| Nicole McGivern | Jack Spilka |
| Elaine Repede | David Vaden |
| Wanda Clark | Beth Chihill |
| Michael Cosevin | Helen Cummings |
| Laina Dachtal | Michael McGivern |
| Jay Grabowsky | Pam Chesar |
| Cecelia Hall | Caroline Kunes |
| Linda Marks | Thomas Lill |
| John & Anne Nemetz | Rhonda Smith |
| Al Piniacki | Carol Boesch |
| Joanie True | Daniel Rinella |
| Penny Dennison | Tom Slomka |
| Wojciech Fedorowicz | Ben Soltis |
| Pam Tropiano | Linda Vect |
| Dennis and Sue Vect | Marcus Vaughn, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzuroff | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Doreen Stanley | Jane Hunter |
| Dennis Thome | The Finnie Family |
| Carlene Fliss | Jim Fliss Jr. |
| John Wisniewski | Cathy Pieciak |
| Nan Cramer | Barb & Jim Lukas |
| Mike Pesci- | telli |
| son | Kathy Robert- |
| | Phil Repko |
| | Richard & |



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