

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

June 2023

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Holy Trinity in Holy Mass

June often has the biggest shakeup of the church calendar- Last year was a better example than this; let me explain: in 2022 (and next in 2025) June begins still in the Easter Season...then we will have Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, and Ordinary Time all take place- four very different feelings of the Church.

Trinity Sunday kinda comes-and-goes the quickest. In fact, the day after Trinity Sunday is this tiny, miniscule 3 day portion of Ordinary Time until Thursday's Solemnity of Corpus Christi. But, I wanted to give the Trinity its proverbial flowers today and write on the touch of the Trinity on the Mass.

My focus is on the Contemporary Rite of the Mass...but to also touch on the Traditional Rite a bit. To understand the Traditional Rite is to know its roots as the Tridentine Mass, which was the official form of the Mass in the Catholic Faith

from 1570-1962. In the Polish National Catholic Church, this was extended into the 1980's, when the Contemporary Rite began its formation.

The title is the giveaway, right? "Tridentine Mass" would make one think "Trinity"...but that is a long-mistaken belief. "Tridentine" is actually taken from the Latin word "Tridentinus", referring to the city of Tridentum in Italy...now known as Trent, where the council that approved this form of the Mass was held. However, the celebrant of Tridentine/Traditional Mass does make 33 signs of the cross, the pure mark of the Trinity, throughout the entirety of the Mass, so I guess it isn't that wrong!

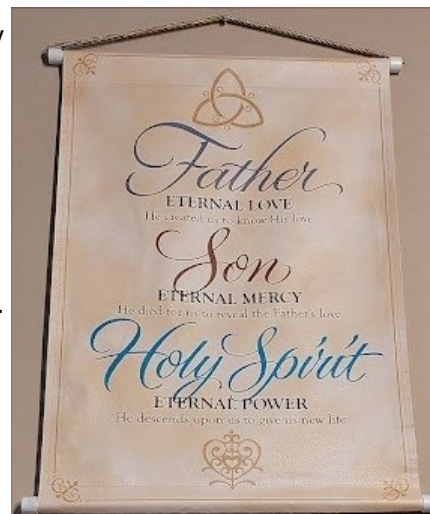
Signs of the Cross aside, there are other moments of the Mass that are directly Trinitarian, and, because we all have much of the Mass memorized (!), I wanted to look at those hidden and more overt instances.

The first is within the Gloria- while the first line is taken from Luke 2:14, the rest is

theology- and it spells out the role of God in our life of worship, how the Son fits in, and just a small mention of the Spirit. Trinitarian, but focusing on the first two members of the Godhead.

The next is the Nicene creed, overt in addressing "One God", and then spelling out the three members of the Trinity who are "One God:" The Father, who is Almighty; the Son, begotten by the Father, the Spirit's part in that, confluence of divinity and humanity; and the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life.

In the Offertory, we circle around the Trinity twice: we request God's blessing individually on the wine and bread, as human ingenuity have taken God's creations and formed them into what is to be sacrificed. The priest blesses the water, a sole creation of God with no human touch, with the desire to share the divinity of Christ, second



Opening Article (Cont)



person of the Trinity. Then, we ask the Spirit's blessing on the totality of the Sacrifice, acknowledging his role as Advocate between Heaven and Earth- the desire to take this earthly thing and make it heavenly.

The next prayer is an overt Trinitarian prayer: after addressing each member of the Trinity uniquely, we now bundle them: *"Receive this offering, most Holy Trinity, which we make in memory of the passion, resurrection and ascension of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints. May they, whose memory we honor on earth, intercede for us in heaven."*

This is one of two Trinity-directed prayers in the Forms of the Mass- did you ever notice that before? The next portion of prayer that holds the Trinity is the Canon, or Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass. The 1st

Prayer is based on the Traditional Canon, an ancient Canon in its original form.

We address the first number of prayers to God the Father, with the first through Jesus Christ. We call upon the Father to fill our offering of bread and wine with the power of the Holy Spirit. This is called the *epiclesis*, "the calling of the Spirit", which is part of what makes Mass whole. Then, immediately after the *epiclesis*, "the shift" takes place. The priest becomes *Alter Christus*, "another Christ", with the prayers becoming directly of the Son during the Consecration. Following the Consecration, the emphasis returns to the Father, with the concluding doxology *"Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever"* showing deference to each member of our beloved Holy Trinity.

In the Traditional Rite of the Mass, there is an extra prayer to the Holy Trinity that takes place in between the Dismissal and the final Blessing (in Contemporary Mass, the Blessing comes first, then the Dismissal). This is the second of the two Trinity-directed prayers within the Forms of the Mass. It is the final petition of the priest at Mass and it encapsulates all private and public intentions of the Mass. It reads: *"May the tribute of our worship be pleasing to You, most Holy Trinity. Grant that the sacrifice which I, though unworthy, have*



offered in the sight of your Majesty, be acceptable to You. Through Your mercy, may it be effective for myself and all those for whom I have offered it. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

I should mention that each of the 3 major prayers of Mass (Opening, Prayer over Gifts, Post-Communion) always address the Trinity. Though the structure can shift (like how the prayers on Pentecost address the Spirit), they usually take the form of something like "Almighty Father...(great stuff happened during the gospel and at Mass)... We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever!"

The Trinity is a Mystery- how could 3 unique persons as One God not be? But may we gain further understanding and appreciation in looking at the Trinity in each celebration of Holy Mass.

Fr. Jason

Parish Mini-cleanup

St. Mary's members gathered on two different days to provide a bit of a pick-me-up to the parish grounds.

Elaine and Jeffery worked the sidewalks on day #1, making sure they were trimmed and presentable. The group pictured to the right came together on the morning of May 13, working a wonderful early morning until the grey clouds came in, eventually pouring on the big-hearted, well-intentioned workers! A meal of pizza, kielbasa, and more was enjoyed by all.



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Parma Polish Constitution Day Parade

Preparations for St. Mary's participation in the Parma Constitution Day Parade began in April, with the filling of candy bags and preparation of informational sheets for those in attendance by those working from the church.

Then, on Sunday, May 7, a contingent of parishioners from St. Mary's met at the infamous "Parma Circle" to congregate in parade formation and await assignment. In a whoosh, we began, with the

Polish School that meets at our parish on Friday nights in formation right behind us!

As is parish custom, we gave out candy and dog treats along the way...and (another parish custom) we ran out of candy before arriving at the finish of the parade. Upon reaching the end, there was a 20 or so minute period of waiting until the program began. Fr. Jason was called to pray the invocation, which he offered and was followed by a little Polish blessing as well.



Mothers' Day 2023

Branch #29 of the YMSofR used the farthest reaches of their collective creativity to provide the women of the parish a

memorable Mothers' Day 2023 on Sunday, May 14. Appropriate pastries were prepped for after Mass, and each woman was greeted by a gift of a flower on her way out of church. Mimosas (both unleaded...

club soda... and high test) were available after Holy Mass as well, a parish tradition that extends back many decades!

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Kielbasa Dinner

St. Mary's Choir held a well-planned and well-executed eat-in or take-out Kielbasa Dinner on Friday evening, May 19th from 4:30-7pm. Around 90 dinners were sold, with great help from members of the choir, ticket-takers at the door, those who learned new technologies, those who came for clean-up, and more.

Our on-(spiritual) retainer musician, Accordion Bill, serenaded those who came through with his brand of accordion music, taking requests and livening



up our downstairs hall. Some came to see him first as their priority and eat food second!



Much appreciation once again to everyone who took part in this dinner in any way. Our choir director and organist, Chris, led the planning and guided many along the way. Bog Zaplac!

Marian Devotions

Thank you to all who participated in any or all of the 4 Friday evenings of devotion to the patroness of our parish, the Blessed Virgin Mary. May always serves as a wonderful time to become closer in knowledge and spirit to the Blessed Mother of our Lord. Fr. Jason provided 4 weeks worth of sermons, with the last three especially focused on the images we see within our own parish building.

The sermons focused from week to week on 1: her role as "Queen of the Apostles" and her presence through the time of Christ's Resur-

rection; 2: on her Sacred Heart; 3: Mary's Assumption to Heaven reflecting the Ascension of Christ (and both of our windows that depict those events); and 4: on the colors Mary wears, especially Marian blue (did you ever notice how many different hues of blue Mary wears in our church art?).

The final night of worship, May 26, was enjoyed especially with a large crowd as our monthly parish committee meeting

concluded with the attendance of our May Devotions.



Fr. Jason attends National Meeting

The National Liturgical Commission of the PNCC met from Monday, May 22– Wednesday, May 24 in the offices of the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church; Scranton, PA.

The Commission meets twice a year, presenting work done over the last number of months for adaptation in the liturgical life of the Polish National Catholic Church. This includes information and documents that are created solely for the use of the clergy as well as those

created for the use of the entirety of the church.

Fr. Jason presented a cross-referenced Calendar of Saints that was edited, updated and cross-checked from an existing calendar for use in the PNCC that included around 1100 unique saints. It was accepted after hours of work. The Commission meets again in late October.



Clergy Conference of the PNCC Western Diocese

The Annual Clergy Conference and Retreat of the PNCC Western Diocese took place May 15-17 at Joseph & Mary Retreat Center in Mundelein, IL.

The diocesan clergy have really grown to appreciate this retreat center (a former seminary), now having been here for a

half-decade or so. Fr. Jim Ploskonka was the leader of the retreat portion of the time together, providing a guided outline of his first months in priesthood as well as a course in apologetics.

Fr. Jim's presentation was very well-received, inciting discussion, questions, and a desire for more in the future.

The conference took place to discuss matters for the clergy of diocese, as well as to let the chief shepherd of the diocese, our Bishop, address anything that is of concern at present time or in the future.

Of course, much fellowship was shared as well, with a beautiful confluence of Polish snacks and Latino snacks to make sure not a single stomach went to bed rumbling!



From Left: Fr. Henryk Galas, Fr. Henry Pawelec, Fr. Gabriel Zavala, Fr. Antulio Alvarado, Fr. Jim Ploskonka, Fr. Sr. Charles Zawistowski, Fr. Mariusz Zochowski, Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak, Fr. John Cramer, Bishop Jaroslaw Rafalko, Fr. Jose Rojas, Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk, Fr. Carlos Aranda, Fr. Nazario Salas, Fr. Jason Soltysiak, Fr. Zbigniew Talaga, Fr. David Rowinski.



Sp. Claire Hunek

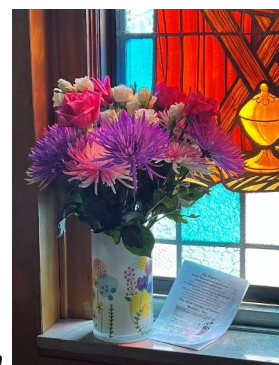
Funeral Mass for our sister Claire Hunek was celebrated Thursday, May 18. Fr. Jason served as celebrant and homilist- Fr. Jim provided the Liturgy of the Word and a hymn, requested



by Claire many years ago. Fr. Greg offered prayers at the funeral home on Wednesday evening. Thanks to Bill Zychowski for providing appropriate music, Susan & Pattie for providing the repast, the ladies who provided the flower display near Claire's pew, as well as all those who worshipped our Lord and remembered Claire at her Funeral and wake.

Her obituary read: Claire Hunek, age 86 of Brook Park, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2023. Claire is preceded in death by Robert John, her beloved husband. Step Mother of Jackie, Bob (Phyllis), Gerry (Angela). Loving Sister of Emil Hronek (deceased) (Shirley), Bernadette (Chester) Zablony (deceased). Cherished Grandmother of Jolie Kolassa (Craig Evert), and many. Also Great-Great Grandmother of Wade Kolassa and

many more. Beloved Aunt too Karen (Dan) Thomas, Christine (Ivan) Liggett. Great Aunt and Great Great Aunt to many nieces and nephews. Dear friend to Debbie and Paul McNamara. Claire loved camping with the family, being in the sun, Polka music, and dancing. She also had a love of dogs and of course the Guardians Cleveland's Major League Baseball team.



Pictured at right: an homage to Claire near "her pew", which included fresh flowers and the final bulletin which bore her name as greeter, the ministry she led at St. Mary's for years.

Pentecost & Memorial Day Weekend

Memorial Day Weekend began liturgically with the celebration of the great Solemnity of Pentecost on Sunday, May 28. Fr. Jason, Fr. Greg, and Fr. Jim celebrated this Solemnity together. They also together offered prayers after Holy Mass to bless our patriotic wreath.

The PNCC Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on W. 54th Street was the site for the annual Memorial Day prayer service of St. Mary's. Fr. Jason, lead celebrant of the service as well as homilist, remarked that for all ten Memorial Days he has been in Ohio, the weather has been perfect. Fr. Jim also led a portion of the service, with our choir director Chris Paulus chip-

ping in quite superbly as lector. To conclude the service, the Star Spangled Banner was sung by the nice-sized group in attendance. At our supreme enjoyment, the wind patterns, flight patterns, and timing came together perfectly so that a plane taking off from nearby Cleveland-Hopkins Airport flew over the cemetery at the crescendo of our National Anthem. Goosebumps! The graves of all service men and women were blessed at the conclusion of the service, as well as prayers at the foot of the graves of our departed clergymen.



Various Announcements

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER –For each Sunday of June, we use the 5th Eucharistic prayer on p. 92.

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY – June 11 is the “Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi. The Love of God Sodality will dress the 4 altars that will be arranged outside (weather permitting) or inside, for this wonderful Catholic Celebration. Holy Mass pauses before the blessing and dismissal to allow for this procession to the altars, which each feature a blessing with the Blessed Sacrament and a Eucharistic Gospel Proclaimed.

MEN'S RETREAT – The 6th Annual PNCC Men's Retreat takes place this week. Fr. Jason will be leaving with a carload of men and supplies for Waymart, PA at 8am Wednesday morning from the Church. We will return home Saturday evening. Fr. Jason will be available to contact, but for an emergency, please contact parish chair Susan.

CLERGY PENSION – On Father's Day, the PNCC offers prayer across the entire denomination for all fathers, lay and clergy, to express gratitude, remembrance, and love for all they have done for family and church. God's

Field/Rola Boza, the official PNCC publication, will publish your name and the name of any father you wish to acknowledge or remember. For each, a minimum donation of \$25 is requested, payable to the Clergy Pension Fund PNCC at 1006 Pittston Ave, Scranton, PA 18505.

SACRED VOCATIONS – June is Sacred Vocations Month. Please consider a donation to the Clergy Pension Fund to honor our clergy for their dedication to church and their parishioners. Pray for your priest, your bishop, and any other clergy in your life. Spend time in prayer for more vocations from within our Polish National Catholic Church.

NEW PNCC PRIEST – The call for Sacred Vocations was answered by Rev. Erick Heredia, ordained to be pastor of Divine Mercy PNCC in Las Vegas, NV on Tuesday, June 6. God bless his new life in the sacred ministry of serving Jesus Christ and in service of His people.

GOLF TOURNAMENT – The upcoming United YMSofR Golf Tournament takes place Saturday, August 26 and will be hosted by St. Mary's. For non-golfers, we will be hosting a wonderful home-

made banquet that evening at the parish, which will include an open beer/wine bar, multiple main courses, appetizers, and more. The dinner will be the same price as in 2015 - \$25!!

YOUTH GATHERING – Takes place July 31-Aug 3 at Walnut Ridge Retreat Center in Morgantown, Indiana – just south of Indianapolis a little more than 5 hours away. We are hoping to fill up a vehicle to travel there- Fr. Jason will drive- please reach out if your child is interested.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION – For the month of June, we are returning to our “normal” form of distribution: that, we ask the faithful to fill the entirety of the Communion Rail and the priests distribute without sanitizer. This will be discussed at the next Parish Committee Meeting- let Fr. Jason know if you have any strong opinion so he can make a determination then.

CLOSING OF SOCL – Has been bumped a few weeks until June, to close Holy Mass on Sunday, June 18. Graduates will be honored this day as well- please let Fr. Jason know if you have a graduate in your family

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

June 4 – A- Joan Spilka (70th Wedding Anv.) of. by husband John
B- Honoring Mark & Cathy Avondet (50th Wedding Anv.)

June 11— Open Intention

June 18– Helen & Nick Sivik of. by sons Nick Sivik, Rodney Budney and daughter Karen Barnes

June 25 – Paul J. Repko Jr. of. by Cheryl Repko

July 2 – Elaine Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe

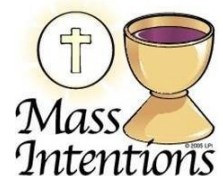
July 9— Rt. Rev. Joseph Soltysiak (50th Anv.) of. by great-grandson Fr. Jason

July 16– Ed & Loretta Pietrovich (Wedding Anv.) of. by Chris Paulus

July 23 – Margaret Sobocinski (9th Anv.) of. by sp. Clarence Sobocinski

July 30 - Diana Tacy (8th Anv.) of. by her sisters Darleen Janke & Dolores DeLong

Final 2023 open dates: June 11, Aug. 6, 20; Sep. 10, 24; Oct. 15, 29; Dec. 10, 17, 24



June Days of Note



June Birthdays

- 3rd — Wiler Ploskonka
- 6th — Bridgette Dotson
- 7th — Mitch Ploskonka
- 7th — Darleen Janke
- 12th — Madi Ference
- 18th — Elizabeth Starnawski
- 26th — Mary Ann Kasperczyk
- 27th — June Zaun



June Anniversaries

- 2nd — Mark & Cathy Avondet
- 7th — John & Eileen Kasperczyk
- 12th — Bill & Pat Glatzer
- 18th — Mitch and Sarah Ploskonka
- 22nd — Bill & Wendy Zychowski
- 25th — Fr. Jason & Natalie Soltysiak
- 27th — Bruce & Barbara Bogzevitz

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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"Is My Life Enough?"

What special gift do I have
To repay the One I love?
The One Who gives me everything –
Even grace from above.
I asked Him to forgive me
Of my many, many sins.
He said, "I will – you asked me with love."
I wanted to repay Him. "Where do I begin?
How do I repay Someone...
Who died for me,
and forgave my sins?
Is there a fee?
How do I repay Someone
Who gave His flesh and blood...
Who gives me joy and peace
And fills me with love!
I asked, "How could I repay You?
You've been here from the start!
There's nothing I have that you could want."
He said: "I want your heart."
"What?!" I immediately thought.
"That is a lot to ask!
He took my heart. He took my life.
Now He wants this task?!
He went on to explain,
"If you will abandon your will to Me,
Then you will be part of my Heavenly Plan
That I've formed for eternity."
"I have given you many gifts
And much grace from above.
Will you let Me use you
To save the people I love?"
Once again, I gave into Him,
For He melts my heart, you see.
"True happiness comes," He said,
"When you come and follow me."
"There may be days of darkness.
There may be times when you are blue.
But do not worry. Do not be sad.
I am ALWAYS with you!"

**A poem on vocations by
Mary Michael Huseman (1993)**

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 |
| Kim Kolens | 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 |
| 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 Pescitelli | Kathy Robertson |
| Phil Repko | Richard & Edna Samelson |
| Jim Giles | Kathleen Sobocinski |
| Bill Zychowski | Loretta Baldwin |
| Donna Kidd | Paulette Lilli |
| Joseph Zubel | Margaret & Lew Heifner |
| Marilyn Girard | Courtney Austin |
| Stephanie Milla | Shannon Alberino |
| Jayden Pieciak | Joyce Zeigler |
| Jeremy Steinbrick | Katie Stallbaum |
| Marcia Klein | Kim Penney |
| Robert Owen Miller | Patrick Kmitt |
| Michael McGivern | Daniel Morgan |
| Dan Ewanko | Roseanne & George Ziefle |

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

