

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

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

April 2017

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## Man and God

The Lenten Season is all about preparation. We take certain things upon ourselves to give up, to improve, to notice, to decrease. We are all called to increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

The Polish National Catholic Church (and the Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Methodist, most Lutheran and some Baptist Churches) are lectionary-based in our cycle of readings. The readings are on a set cycle and if you walk into any of these denominations on, say, August 16, 2031, the readings will be the same as you'd hear in your home parish.

With that said, this year is Year A, and the Lenten Readings, especially the Gospels, have been L-O-N-G. But in their length, we get a rich layout of our Lord's preparation for His passion and His death.

On Passion Sunday, our Gospel selection was from John 11:1-45. The account of Lazarus falling ill, Jesus visiting the family and raising Lazarus from the dead.

I love the clash of human Jesus versus divine Jesus presented in this chapter of the gospel. *Christology* is the study of this very aspect of the life of Jesus Christ. That it was a part of him that made some parts of his life easy, some parts challeng-



ing, and other parts (My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me? *Mark 15:34b*) downright harrowing.

Looking at the human-ness of Jesus, we see the things with which he contends in John 11. We read of Jesus' love for Martha, Mary, and Lazarus; his disciple's constant doubt; his weeping at the loss of Lazarus and at the pain of his friends around him (who isn't heartbroken around a friend who is crying?); and scripture shows that Jesus is noticeably "perturbed" at the tomb of Lazarus. All very natural and human things to experience.

The divinity (being "of-God") of Jesus shows as well— it takes something beyond man in proclaiming Lazarus' illness would be to glorify God. It was His divinity that notified the disciples before anyone heard that Lazarus died. He also proclaimed to be the Resurrection of the life, and called to the Father and raised Lazarus in response.

In seminary, while studying this Gospel, our scripture professor asked us "who raised Lazarus?" Was it Jesus, who was just weeping over him? Or did his sadness weaken him in the moment. Was it God the Father, who was responding to the call of His Son on earth? Or...perhaps...was it by the faith of Martha?

Scripture tells us in Matthew 17:20 "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will

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move; and nothing will be impossible for you." Martha just got finished proclaiming her faith in Jesus, telling Him that she *knew* He had power over life and death.

Jesus must have been floored! In the previous chapter of John's Gospel, he was just rejected by His own people. In fact, his disciples didn't want him going back to Judea to see Lazarus, as they thought it was too dangerous. In all of this doubt...incredible, great faith from Martha...perhaps one of the greatest displays of faith in scripture, one truly blessed, who had not seen Jesus' power over death...yet still believed.

Though I won't find out until St. Peter welcomes me (hopefully) through those pearly gates, I think the human side of Jesus—the one who was chased away by his own, who was doubted by his friends, who was hurting along with the people around Him, *needed* to see and experience Martha's faith. Jesus didn't just raise Lazarus because he was a friend. If that were so, what would've stopped Him from raising up all His friends?

He did it because of their faith. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus didn't just win the "right place, right guy lottery" (like I thought as a kid) in being Jesus' buddies and being protected from death—they were friends *because* of faith.

As Holy Week arrives, we see the true battle of man and God—the pain the humanity of Jesus takes on constantly at odds with the desire of Heaven to look past it. We see the humanity of Jesus struggle, doubt, and suffer...but we truly experience victory in the will- ingness of the Body and Spirit.

Fr. Jason

# HOLY THURSDAY

## WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY



Jesus celebrates the Passover Seder/Last Supper with the Apostles.



"This is the Chalice of my blood;"



"Do this in remembrance of me"

Jesus institutes the Eucharist.



He washes their feet, showing them what type of leaders they are to be as priests.

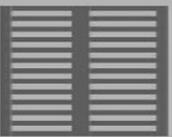


"Not my will, but yours be done."

Jesus suffers the Agony in the Garden, sweating blood in anguish as he prays.



Judas betrays Jesus and hands him over to the authorities. Jesus is arrested.



Jesus is taken away and imprisoned.

## WHAT YOU'LL SEE AT CHURCH



The priest wears white because it's a joyful day, celebrating our love for Jesus in the Eucharist.



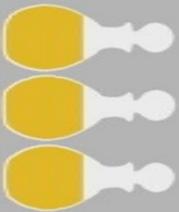
No Masses are celebrated on Good Friday, so the priest must plan (and consecrate) ahead.



The priest will wash people's feet as a sign of his dedication to those whom he serves.



After Mass, the altar is stripped, and most decorations are taken down or covered. The consecrated hosts are transferred to an "Altar of Repose" somewhere else in the Church until needed on Good Friday. (Often, due to security, a move to a more secure location is done late Thursday night.) This absence of the Eucharist helps us experience the loss and emptiness the Apostles felt on Good Friday.



The Chrism Mass, in which the Bishop blesses all the holy oils for his diocese, is also celebrated on Holy Thursday.

## LIVE THE DAY



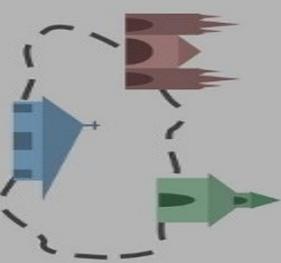
Cover or put away your holy pictures and/or statues.



Attend a Tenebrae service. Check around for times as it's held on various Triduum days.



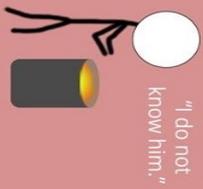
Take on special fasts or increase your prayers and/or devotions.



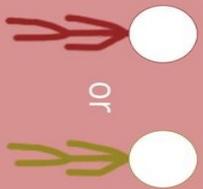
Simulate visiting Jesus in prison by making a pilgrimage to local parishes' Altars of Repose.

# GOOD FRIDAY

## WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY



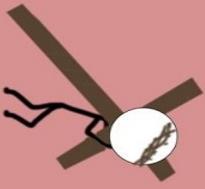
While Jesus is interrogated, Peter denies knowing him three times.



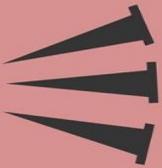
Pontius Pilate questions Jesus. He offers the crowd a choice: Jesus or Barabbas?



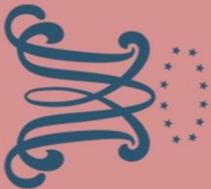
Jesus is scourged.



Jesus carries the cross on which he will be crucified.



Jesus is nailed to the cross and left to die.



He gives his mother Mary to John, and in turn, each of us.

**"It is finished."**

Jesus dies.



Guards come to break Jesus' legs to speed his death. Already dead, they pierce his side.



Jesus' body is taken down from the cross, prepared for burial, and placed in the tomb.

## LIVE THE DAY



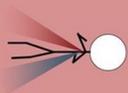
Keep silence throughout the day, especially from 9:00am to 3:00pm, when Jesus was on the cross.



Increase your time spent praying. Reflect on The Passion.



Pray the Stations of the Cross. Your parish may schedule a service.



Start the Divine Mercy Novena.



Take on extra fasting or increased other acts of piety.



Pray the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary.

## WHAT YOU'LL SEE AT CHURCH



The priest wears red to bring to mind the blood Jesus shed.

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

This is the one day all year on which no Masses are celebrated.



The tabernacle will still be empty and the church undecorated.



Candles are lit only when Jesus (in the Eucharist) is present, and during the Veneration of the Cross.



St. John's account of The Passion is read. The congregation often reads the part of the crowd demanding Jesus' crucifixion to reinforce how our sins made necessary the cross of Christ.



The Veneration of the Cross occurs during the Good Friday service. Those at the service show a sign of love (kiss, genuflect, etc) to a cross in thanksgiving for Jesus' cross.

# EASTER VIGIL

## WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY

\*CELEBRATION OF EASTER SUNDAY EVENTS START THE NIGHT BEFORE



Jesus rises from the dead and leaves the tomb.



Peter and John check out the tomb. All they find are the burial cloths.



Jesus walks to Emmaus with two of his disciples. They realize it's him only after breaking bread.



The guards at the tomb report what happened to the chief priests, who pay them off to tell a cover story.



Mary Magdalene sticks around the tomb and encounters Jesus.



Jesus appears to more disciples, shows them his wounds, gives them power to forgive sins.

## WHAT YOU'LL SEE AT CHURCH



The priest wears white because we're joyfully celebrating Jesus' victory over death!



The Exultet prayer and lots of extra readings help us recall salvation history.



Pray        for us

We sing the Litany of the Saints, asking them to join us in prayer to God.



The Paschal Candle, the "Light of Christ," is carried into the church and the congregation's candles are lit from it.



We sing Alleluia for the first time since before Lent started!



People coming into the Catholic Church are Baptized and Confirmed.

## LIVE THE DAY



Take the day totally off from work and schoolwork.



Decorate your house. Easter Lilies symbolize the hope, joy, and new life found in the resurrection.



Have a feast!



Keep it up. Catholics celebrate the Octave of Easter, that means Easter is 8 days long!

## Pierogi & Bake Sale

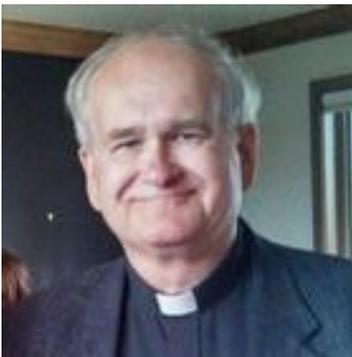
On Saturday, March 18, the parish held a pierogi and bake sale from 10am-2pm.

The pierogi were made the previous weekend, on Saturday the 11th. Fortunately, many of our parishioners were willing to come back the next weekend and support the work of the parish again. In fact, there were just a few bakery items and a couple dozen pierogi left by the end of the day!



## Rev. Raymond Drada

Our brother in Christ and faithful priest of our sister parish of All Saints in Sterling Heights, MI passed away last month. For those who may have missed it, here is Father Ray's obituary.



Rev. Raymond Drada Age 58, passed away in Troy, Michigan. Lying in State Sunday, March 12, 2017 from 4 P.M. to 8 P.M. Vespers at 7 P.M. Funeral services will be held Monday, March 13, 2017 at All Saints Cathedral Polish National Church, 9201 West Higgins Rd. Chicago.

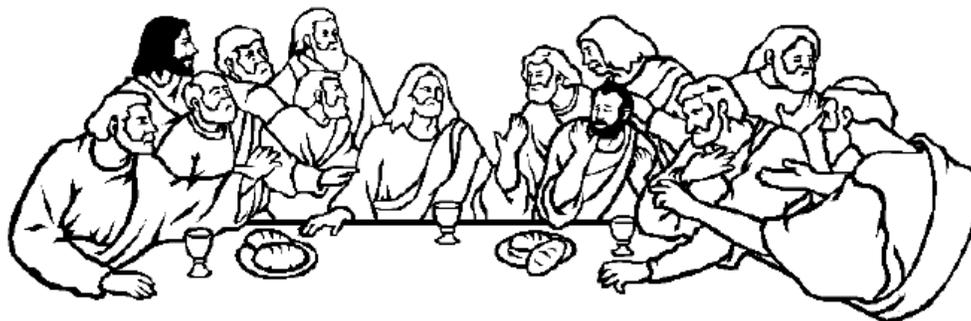
Lying in State 9:30 A.M. until time of mass 11 A.M. Private burial will follow at Chapel Hill South in Worth, Illinois.

Father Ray was born in Paterson, New Jersey to Dorothy and Raymond R. Drada Sr. on December 2, 1958. He attended Savonarola Theological Seminary in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and was or-

dained to the priesthood on May 13, 1981. He married Penelope (Pennie) Drada on June 30, 1984 at St. John's PNCC in Chicago. He was pastor of parishes in Wallingford, CT, Adelphi, MD, Philadelphia, PA, Perth Amboy, NJ, Chicago, IL and finally Sterling Heights, MI.

Father Ray is survived by his loving wife Pennie, children Andrew (Jenelle), and Elizabeth (Scott) Knake, sister Diane Drada, grandchildren JJ (Jeremiah Raymond) and Savannah, and foster grandchildren.

Donations can be made in Father Ray's memory to the Clergy Pension Fund of the PNCC, c/o 920 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068-2358.



## Various Announcements

### Season of Lent

Thanks to all who attended our Lenten Devotions this year. There seemed to be gusting snow every time we had Stations, and beautiful weather for Lamentations!

### Plastic Bags

You *know* you have plastic bags full of plastic bags in your home. The Mission Team is calling for a collection of these items, which will then be woven to make temporary bedding for the needy. This program will benefit those who have nowhere else to lay their heads in the coming months.

### Lenten Cross

The Mission Team is 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!). The prayers that have been posted upon it will be offered on Holy Saturday, as they will be burned in the Holy Saturday liturgy at 4pm.

### Chrism Mass

The 2017 Chrism Mass takes place at 7pm on Tuesday, April 11 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cedar Lake, IN. This Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese and diocesan priests, calls upon God to bless those who minister for Him as well as to bless the Holy Oils that will be used in parishes across the entire diocese.

### Spaghetti Dinner

St. Barbara's Parish Guild is sponsoring their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, May 6 from 5:30-8pm. The cost is \$10/Adults, \$7/Kids 6-12, Free for 5 and younger. All ticket sales are in advance – call Dane 216-832-4971.

### 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. Our collec-

tion concludes Palm Sunday. The collected items will be brought over during Holy Week.

### Bible Study

Our new round of Bible Study has begun! We are working our way through the revelatory Old Testament Book of Daniel. Please pray for our group and consider joining us some time!

### Food Ministry

Thank you to all who helped with our April Food Ministry. 74 meals, consisting of pasta, meatballs, bread, rolls, extra sauce and dessert were served to those in need in our local community.

### Kielbasa Making

The choir's kielbasa sale takes place on Saturday, April 8. Kielbasa is available at \$5 per pound, and can be ordered in church or by contacting us via phone or email.

### Basket Blessing

A reminder that basket blessings take place on Holy Saturday at 11 am, 3pm, and at the conclusion of the 4pm Holy Saturday Liturgy.

# Easter Triduum



*A note from your parish chair*

A TRADITIONAL POLISH **SWIECONKA** BASKET

*Basket Contents and Symbolism:*

- Maslo**/Butter: This dairy product is often shaped into a lamb (**Baranek Wielkanocny**), reminding us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.
- Chleb**/Easter Bread: A round rye loaf topped with a cross, symbolic of Jesus, the Bread of Life.
- Chrzan**/Horseradish: Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds, but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. (May be white or pink [w/grated red beets].)
- Jajka**/Eggs and **Pisanki**: Indicate new life and Christ's Resurrection from the Tomb.
- Kielbasa**/Sausage: A spicy sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.
- Szynka**/Ham: Symbolic of great joy and abundance. In addition to the large ham cooked for the Easter meal, often a special small ham, called the **Szynka Wielkanocny** is purchased specially for **Swieconka** basket.
- Slonina**/Smoked Bacon: A symbol of the over abundance of God's mercy and generosity.
- Sol**/Salt: So necessary an element in our physical life, that Jesus used its symbolism: "You are the salt of the earth."
- Ser**/Cheese: Shaped into a ball, it is the symbol of the moderation Christians should have.

Holy water is used to bless the home, animals, and fields and used in religious rituals throughout the year.

A candle, often marked like the Paschal Candle lit during the Easter Vigil, is inserted into the basket to represent Christ, Light of the World.

A colorful ribbon and sometimes sprigs of greenery are attached. The linen cover is drawn over the top and is ready for the trek to the blessing.

**SWIECONKA** \* BLESSING OF THE BASKETS

**Swieconka** (sh-vee-en-soon-kah) is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday. The basket is traditionally lined with a white linen or lace napkin and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (**bukszpan**), the typical Easter evergreen. Poles take special pride in preparing a decorative and tasteful basket with crisp linens, occasionally embroidered for the occasion, and just enough boxwood and ribbon woven through the handle. Observing the beautiful foods and creations of other parishioners is one of the special joys of the event.

While in some older or rural communities, the priest visits the home to bless the foods, the vast majority of Poles and Polish Americans visit the church on Holy Saturday, once again praying at the Tomb of the Lord.

**POSWIECENIE POKARMOW** \* BLESSING OF FOOD

The Blessing of the Food is a festive occasion. The three-part blessing prayers specifically address the various contents of the basket, with special prayers for the meats, eggs, cakes & breads.

The priest then sprinkles the individual baskets with Holy Water. More traditional Polish churches use a straw brush for dispersing the Water; others use the more modern metal Holy Water sprinkling wand. In some parishes, the baskets are lined up on long tables; in others, parishioners process to the front of the altar carrying their baskets, as if in a Communion line. Older generations of Polish Americans, descended from early 19th century immigrants, tend to bless whole meal quantities, often brought to church halls or cafeterias in large hampers & picnic baskets. Newer Polonian immigrants at Polish-language parishes along with Poles in urban Poland present the smaller arrangement of select goods described here.

*My prayer for all of you is that during this upcoming Holy Week you take time out of your busy days for meditation and personal reflection. Make the time to come to church during the Masses and services offered that assist us in preparing for the joyous resurrection of Christ. I wish all of you a blessed and glorious Easter!*

*elaine p. ploskonka*

### April Days of Note



- 7<sup>th</sup> – Helen Wankowski
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Michael Oleniacz
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Karen Barnes
- 16<sup>th</sup> – John Michalczyk
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Robert Mondok
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Megan Kasperczyk
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Sheri Ference
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Julie Koehler
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn Burger
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Natalie Kasperczyk
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Nick Sivik



- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tom & Karen Bedocs
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Zbigniew & Elizabeth Staranowski

### “The Dream of the Rood” Anglo-Saxon 8th Century Trans. by Richard Hammer

*The Rood (cross of Christ) speaks:*

“It was long past – I still remember it –  
That I was cut down at the copse’s end,  
Moved from my root.

Strong enemies there took me,  
Told me to hold aloft their criminals,  
Made me a spectacle. Men carried me  
Upon their shoulders, set me on a hill,  
A host of enemies there fastened me.

“And then I saw the Lord of all mankind  
Hasten with eager zeal that He might  
mount Upon me. I durst not against God’s  
word, Bend down or break,  
when I saw tremble all  
The surface of the earth. Although I might  
Have struck down all the foes,  
yet stood I fast.

“Then the young hero  
(who was God almighty)  
Got ready, resolute and strong in heart.  
He climbed onto the lofty gallows-tree,  
Bold in the sight of many watching men,  
When He intended to redeem mankind.  
I trembled as the warrior embraced me.  
But still I dared not bend down to the  
earth, Fall to the ground.  
Upright I had to stand.

“A rood I was raised up; and I held high  
The noble King, the Lord of heaven above.  
I dared not stoop.

They pierced me with dark nails;  
The scars can still be clearly seen on me,

The open wounds of malice.  
Yet might I Not harm them.  
They reviled us both together.  
I was made wet all over with the blood  
Which poured out from his side,  
after He had Sent forth His spirit.

And I underwent  
Full many a dire experience on that hill.  
I saw the God of hosts  
stretched grimly out.  
Darkness covered  
the Ruler’s corpse with clouds  
His shining beauty;  
shadows passed across,  
Black in the darkness.  
All creation wept,  
Bewailed the King’s death;  
Christ was on the cross....

“Now you may understand, dear warrior,  
That I have suffered deeds of wicked men  
And grievous sorrows.

Now the time has come  
That far and wide on earth men honor me,  
And all this great and glorious creation,  
And to this beacon offers prayers.  
On me The Son of God once suffered;  
therefore now  
I tower mighty underneath the heavens,  
And I may heal all those in awe of me.  
Once I became the cruelest of tortures,  
Most hateful to all nations, till the time  
I opened the right way of life for men.”



### 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     |
| Kathleen Beres         |                     |

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      | Rose Kazinetz            |
| 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            | Corey Wasko              |
| Wanda Heffner        | Geri S.                  |
| Donna Kidd           | 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 |
|-------------|-----------|
- WE ALSO REMEMBER  
ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY  
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN  
Bless them, O Lord.

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