

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

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

**September 2023**

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## Golf Tournament Weekend

Hours of preparation, set up, meeting, item collection, and deliberation culminated on the afternoon of Friday, August 25, as golfers and friends from across the Polish National Catholic Church descended upon the Parma Room Hospitality Suite in Independence, OH.



There, they were met with varied kielbasas, pizza, chips, pretzels, popcorn, drinks, and wonderful fellowship. The topper of it all was the putting game, where for a \$5 entry fee, participants took 3 practice shots followed by attempting to sink as many putts as possible. This brought a fun, yet competitive element to the evening. Some people were even "sponsored" to putt for the first time in decades, including Prime Bishop Mikovsky, his wife Carol, and our own Greg Hodor!



Rain from earlier in the week left much of Northeast Ohio pretty soaked, including the site of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual YMSofR Golf Tournament, Briarwood Golf Course. The day was dry, however, and golfers arrived



around 8am, welcomed by our registration committee, dozens of donuts, and coffee. Golfers stretched and chowed down, enjoying the calm before the storm. And, although the pace was quite slow, everyone enjoyed their time on the course, with scores running a little higher due to the wet conditions. Thanks to Annette for the on-course pictures!

The banquet was held at St. Mary's in



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## Opening Article (Con't)



Parma, OH, with the upper Fellowship Hall serving as a respite for appetizers and cold drinks before the group was called to the downstairs hall for dinner. The MC for the evening, Bruce Bogzevitz, brought the house down with golf humor and welcomed all guests and dignitaries.

Fr. Sr. Charles Zawistowski, Administrator of the PNCC Western Diocese, passed on the large lantern that was a featured piece at the previous month's Diocesan Youth Gathering. He presented it to the youngest attendee of the Gathering, Brady Soltysiak, admonishing him to keep the light of Christ on behalf of the parish. Fr. Sr. Charles described that this lantern would stay in Parma for the time being and then travel to other parishes in the diocese. It has found a home upon Mary's Altar.

A delicious Italian Dinner was served, with guests called up and served as much as they could eat. Stories of "almosts" and "it was so close" were told between bites. Upon finishing the meal, awards were presented. The team from Lancaster, NY consisting of Gary Alexin, Tim Alexin, and

Mark Stencel won the overall event. The YMSofR top score went to the clergy team: Fr. Sr. Zawistowski, Fr. Jason Soltysiak, and Sub-Deacon Doug Scott. Top women's team was local: Josephine Orlowski, Deb Wilson, Rosie Kirkpatrick, and Mimi Konopenski. Special awards were given to special golfers Paige McConlogue for "Golfer to Quit Before 11am" and to Tom Putynski for "Golfing with Bruce".

Ice Cream Sundaes were served after the awards were presented, with 3 different ice creams and many different toppings.

The Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the PNCC, spoke at the end of the event. The day was long and his words were short, but he made sure everyone knew how proud he was of the work of the National



YMSofR as well as the work of local parish YMSofR Branches.

9am Holy Mass was celebrated Sunday by Prime Bishop Mikovsky and con-celebrated by Fr. Jason Soltysiak, Fr. Greg Gronn, and Fr. Jim Ploskonka. Prime Bishop was assisted by Sub-Deacon Doug Scott with Chuck



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Repede and Damion Alberino serving as acolytes. Mrs. Cathy Bilinski played the organ, as our organist was on a long-overdue vacation. Parish Chair Susan Boehnlein welcomed Prime Bishop with the traditional bread and salt before Mass began.



Holy Mass featured a Gospel Procession, with Fr. Jim proclaiming the Gospel from the center of the church. Prime Bishop followed with a homily that highlighted theology very important to the Polish National Catholic Church- that the rock that Christ would build his Church upon was the great faith of His followers. Prime Bishop spoke of the effects of that statement and how it still affects us today. His authoritative and compelling homily was very well-received by the congregation.



A final reception took place after Holy Mass in the Fellowship Hall. Cathy Avondet and Patty Bennett prepared a "going-away" meal for everyone, be they traveling 5 minutes home or 6 hours to another state. Clergy and out-of-towners were served first, with many hitting the road shortly thereafter. Others enjoyed lengthy time in the air-conditioned hall after a warm weekend.



Thank you to all who made this final August weekend a great success and memorable weekend. Branch #29 of the YMSofR fulfilled its second of two tournaments over a two-year span. It is a wonderful blessing to have able and willing parishioners to run such an event – blessings all



## Back to Church Sunday!

Sunday, September 17 is known as "Back To Church Sunday" and is a call-to-worship that many Christian Denominations use to coincide with the settling-in of the new school year and

after summer vacations conclude. We invite anyone who has ever called St. Mary's "home" *back to church* for this Sunday and ask that you **bring a friend as well**—lets make it a home-

coming for everyone! Mass will be at 9am as usual with a neat breakfast and goodies to follow.



## 2023 Youth Gathering of the PNCC Western Diocese

The 2023 Youth Gathering of the Western Diocese took place at Walnut Ridge Retreat Center in Morgantown, IN from Monday, July 31-Thursday, August 3. Fr. Jason, Marzena, and Brady loaded up the car and set off for southern Indiana first thing Monday morning. It was a lengthy trip – about 7 hours each way.

It was the first time our diocese was attending this Christian-forward camp. The owners were incredibly nice to our adults and children. Brady enjoyed his trip as the youngest camper, along with his roommates Fr. Jason & Sub-Deacon Doug Scott. Marzena enjoyed seeing old friends, singing during Mass, and serving as a leader to younger children. Fr. Jason enjoyed presenting a session on “Connecting to God in the Mass”, celebrating Holy Mass for the children, and being with his brothers in the clergy.

Major focal points included the gigantic 60 foot slide, the in-ground swimming pool, dessert at every meal, Mr. Larry's control of all-things technological, nearly-impossible all-white puzzles, colorful rocks, bonfires, an extremely active game room, and wet footballs.

We remembered Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko on our opening evening. He had already prepared the lanterns and laminated the accompanying cards we were presented before his untimely death just two weeks prior. Our lanterns were lit as if they were candles at a candlelight vigil. Fr. Jason's and Brady's lanterns for the Youth Gathering surround the place where we enthrone the Book of Gospels at St. Mary's on Sunday mornings. Many thanks to all who planned and participated in this Youth Gathering. The planning team did a wonderful job and our clergy supported it! Attending were National/Diocesan Youth

Chaplain Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Diocesan Administrator Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Rev. Carlos Aranda, Rev. David Rowinski, Rev. Nazario Salas, and Sub-Deacon Doug Scott.



## Our Parish Organizations: Part 1 – YMSofR Branch #29

Over the next few months of the newsletter, we will have a series of explanations of each parish organization— who they are and what they do.

Branch #29 of the YMSofR (Young Men's Society of the Resurrection) was formed within the last 15 or so years. There once was an active men's club within the parish that fell out of practice.

The YMSofR was established by Bishop Francis Hodur in 1914 as a men's society for, amongst other things, the betterment and perfection of religious life.

It is a national organization, with branches across the United States at various Polish National Catholic parishes. Our organization pays dues for the men to belong to the national organization— about a dollar a month.

The local branches at each parish are a bit different in what they do for the parish and what they do at the parish.

Branch #29's president is Chuck Repede, a devoted Polish National Catholic who also serves at the Lord's Altar as an acolyte.

Chuck said that he is hopeful that more men of the parish would consider being part of the group in the months ahead. His hope as president is to lead the men in organizing some more social activities, as well as keeping up a formal meeting schedule.

One of the highlights of his tenure as president of Branch #29 was the planning and execution of the 8th and 9th Annual National YMSofR Golf Tournaments held respectively in 2022 and 2023 (see the article in this very newsletter!). He was thrilled how the men came together in such a supportive and

friendly way to plan something so involved and multi-layered! He also remarked in the past how it is humbling to hold an event where the proceeds go towards the support of children.

Branch #29 also participates in the National YMSofR Clothing Drive, which it has "won" multiple times through the years by how many clothing items were collected. Chuck has represented the branch on multiple occasions in his travels to the Bi-ennial Convention of the YMSofR and a number of our men attend the annual Men's Spiritual Retreat in Waymart, PA.

Men of the church— if you are looking for a little more to do after Mass on Sunday or would like to connect with a great group of guys during the week, please consider joining the parish YMSofR!



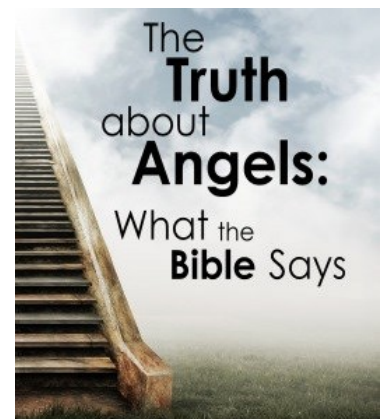
Left: Men of Branch #29 flank Andrew Humphreys and Nick Kazinetz, National YMSofR President. From left, Fr. Jim Ploskonka and Fr. Jason Soltysiak, from right, Mike Wisniewski and President Repede, all in attendance at the Men's Retreat receiving the winning check for participation in the clothing drive.



## Bible Study Concludes

An 8 Session Bible Study on Angels concluded on Wednesday, August 26. This was one of our more lively studies, with the course presenting ground-work for angels in the early scriptures and expanding on their affect on our lives, spelled out later in scripture. Thank you to all who attended this study. We will be beginning another study in

early autumn after a bit of time off. All are welcome to attend- we (usually) meet every other Wednesday, except when Fr. Jason's schedule prevents us. Our next study is 6 lessons and begins on Wednesday, September 20th and is titled "Advent of the Savior" as we look towards Incarnation!



# Help Support Our Organization!

**ACME**  
Fresh Market  
**Community**  
**CASH**  
**BACK**

**SHOP** **ACME**  
Fresh Market  
**& EARN 5%**  
**CASH BACK**

## IT'S EASY!

Save your Acme Fresh Market receipts dated August 1, 2023 – February 15, 2024 to help us raise money!



**Earn 5% Community Cash Back on these Participating Brands:**



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### Various Announcements

**TRUNK SALE/BAKE SALE** – Unfortunately, September 9th's Trunk Sale had to be postponed for a myriad of reasons. Thanks to anyone who had showed interest in it- we will try again at some point!

**A GREAT WEEKEND!** – we welcomed the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, his wife Carol, and many others as part of the YMSofR Golf Tournament. Branch #29 of the YMSofR did a wonderful job in preparation, planning, set-up, and execution of an event that involved many moving parts! From the blast that many people had at the hospitality room on Friday night to the events of the golf course and banquet on Saturday through the wonderful Mass and breakfast afterward; thank you to everyone involved. Our parish really is quite good at hosting these types of events-everyone who visits always enjoys our hospitality and are glad to be traveling to Parma.

**NIGHT AT THE RACES** – Our Second Annual Night at the Races takes place Saturday, September 30. There will be a basket raffle at the event, and we have our white board filled with tags filled with "inspiration". Most of the stickies are accounted for: thank you to everyone who helped in that regard. Please consider attending and bringing

a friend or two as well!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/SOCL** – Will have a start date TBD. Fr. Jason is requesting some help in a weekly or bi-weekly teacher to help with our SOCL. Please see him after Mass or drop a note.

**ST. MARY'S BOWLING LEAGUE** begins soon, taking place at Red Circle Lanes on State Rd. This league is open to all level of bowlers—even someone who rolls in the 60's is a huge help to a team, as all scores are set to an average. If interested, see Elaine Ploskonka.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS** – Will be starting up again shortly. Anyone who is interested in lending a voice is invited up to the choir loft at anytime, but if you'd rather get a few rehearsals under your belt, that is great too! Please see organist Chris Paulus.

**PRIESTS AWAY** –Fr. Jason will be at All Saints Cathedral on Sunday, September 24, with Fr. Greg serving as celebrant here. Fr. Greg will be celebrant at St. Mary's in South Bend, IN on Sunday, Oct. 1, and Fr. Jim will be celebrant here on Sunday, October 8.

**ACME**—We are participating in the Acme "Community Cash Back" program which runs...well into 2024! Hooray, more months to help out our parish! Turn in all receipts you have from Acme now until our end date- St. Mary's receives 5% back from each Acme item!

**BASKET RETURN** – Since we will be getting ready to fill some baskets soon, we are asking that if you have won a basket at a parish raffle in the past few months or years, please return it so we can fill it up with some goodies and raffle it off once again.

**NEW ASSIGNMENT** – Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski has been named the administrator of our PNC Western Diocese. He has been active in calling meetings, checking with parishes, etc. Please pray for his ministry in this new capacity.

**KITCHEN WORK** – As reported in last month's newsletter, the kitchen work has been processed, detailed, completed, approved and inspected. Thank you to all those who supported this project.

**PET BLESSING** – The St. Francis of Assisi Animal/Pet blessing will take place Wednesday, October 4. Flyers are available in church or by request– we ask that you give them to fellow pet-owners as well as drop them off at your vet for them to display. Let's fill the parking lot this year!

**SEPTEMBER 17** – Is nationally known as "Back to Church Sunday", often in-step with the return of children to school. We are asking everyone to bring a friend- to have a family reunion of sorts, to round up the cousins, nieces, and nephews. Let's enjoy a full church!

### Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

September 3 – Stanley Dobrowolski of. by daughter Pattie Dotson

September 10-Mary Repasky & Irene D'Arcy of. by Mike & Carole D'Arcy

September 17– George Stepanik of. by brother Gene Stepanik

September 24 – Bruno Tracy of. by Bill Zychowski

October 1 – Sophie & Martin Szpilka of. by John Spilka

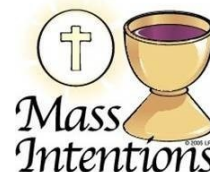
October 8— Steve Temesi of. by wife Patty Temesi

October 15– Open for an Intention

October 22 – Adolph Kasperczyk of. by John & Eileen Kasperczyk & family

October 29 – Open for an Intention

Final 2023 open dates: Oct. 15, 29; Dec. 10, 17



## September Days of Note



### September Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> — Brett Spilka
- 2<sup>nd</sup> — Marge O'Connor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> — Bill Chambers
- 5<sup>th</sup> — Jim Ploskonka
- 7<sup>th</sup> — Elaine Ploskonka
- 7<sup>th</sup> — Sharon Skiba
- 14<sup>th</sup> — Pam Nemec
- 17<sup>th</sup> — Rose Kronen
- 27<sup>th</sup> — Allison Suarez
- 27<sup>th</sup> — Roland Ploskonka



*Happy Anniversary*

### September Anniversaries

- 1<sup>st</sup> — Josh & Demi Bengston
- 2<sup>nd</sup> — Vince & Karen Colwell
- 19<sup>th</sup> — Pete & Marge O'Connor
- 26<sup>th</sup> — Steve & Barbara Fesz
- 26<sup>th</sup> — Tom & Cherie Kugler
- 30<sup>th</sup> — Bill & Jeanette Chambers

*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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## "Splinter from the Cross"

*This poem honors the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which takes place each year on September 14*

Little headaches, little heartaches  
Little griefs of every day.  
Little trials and vexations,  
How they throng around our way!  
One great cross, immense and heavy,  
so it seems to our weak will,  
Might be borne with resignation,  
But these many small ones kill.  
Yet all life is formed of small things,  
Little leaves, make up the trees,  
Many tiny drops of water  
Blending, make the mighty seas.  
Let us not then by impatience  
Mar the beauty of the whole,  
But for love of Jesus bear all  
In the silence of our soul.  
Asking Him for grace sufficient  
To sustain us through each loss,  
And to treasure each small offering  
As a splinter from His Cross.

### Author Unknown



## 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
Jim Boehnlein	Sauna Smullen
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Kim Kolens	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Joseph Bischoff
David Micka	Jeff Lukas
Ed Pierson	George Bennett
Daniel Morgan	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 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
Sam Bass	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Kim Penney
Dan Ewanko	Patrick Kmitt
Roseanne & George Ziefle	

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

