

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2021

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path of the Polish National Catholic Church has rarely strayed far from US Interstates!

But what that carved path has allowed me to see was a nice sampling of various parishes from various dioceses- how they functioned, unique traditions they have, architecture style, and, well, the style of their Stations of the Cross.

A few years after we moved to St. Joseph's in Westfield, MA, a nearby PNC parish that fell on to unfortunate hard times closed, and our parish was the recipient of some of the liturgical items. A new tabernacle was installed, as well as 14 grand, large stations. Not that there was anything wrong with the old ones, but the architecture of the "new" ones made for a better and more dramatic fit.

Fast-forward some 20 years, and the process relatively repeated itself here at St. Mary's- on Ash Wednesday, 2015, we had a formal service of installation of new Stations of the Cross, installed from a closed parish some years prior. Our old ones still exist under these – a condition to preserve some history, while allowing the design and shape of these "new" ones to accent our walls and stained glass windows perfectly.

In common practice, we have the 14 Stations of the Cross, pretty much made standard by Pope Innocent XI after a growth of those who wanted to walk Christ's Passion, Via Dolorosa, in the Holy Land. This devotion to the passion was spearheaded first by St. Francis of Assisi in the 13th Century, whose followers, well, followed suit. They would vow to protect the Holy Land and those holy places within it.

Stations of the Cross

One of the odd statistics of my personal life is that I have never lived in a town for more than 9 years. I've been used to moving, having the thrill of the proverbial fresh start, even if it was a fresh start for my parents and not so much 11 year old me.

Since my father's job has been "pastor" my whole life, these family moves, along with my own path, have carved a path from Interstate 90 down to 91, across 84 and across 80 to my current parish home. Yes, the



Fr. Jason's Article (con't)

In 1731, Pope Clement XII extended to all churches the right to have the stations, provided that a Franciscan father erected them, with the consent of the local bishop. At the same time the number was fixed at fourteen. In 1857, the bishops of England were allowed to erect the stations by themselves, without the intervention of a Franciscan priest, and in 1862 this right was extended to bishops throughout the church.

Just like how there are different rosary devotions and different rites of the Holy Mass, there are multiple ways to pray the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross. Amongst them is a version Pope John Paul II approved the "Scriptural Way of the Cross" in 1991 for the Roman Catholic Church, which followed: 1: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane; 2: Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested; 3: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin; 4: Jesus is denied by Peter; 5: Jesus is judged by Pilate; 6: Jesus is scourged

and crowned with thorns; 7: Jesus takes up his cross; 8: Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross; 9: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem; 10: Jesus is crucified; 11: Jesus promises his kingdom to the repentant thief; 12: Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other; 13: Jesus dies on the cross; and 14: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Some parishes feature a non-traditional option of showcasing a 15th Station, the Resurrection of Christ. This might be placed right after 14 or, if there simply is a Resurrection Statue or image in the church somewhere, an XV placed within its vicinity. I mentioned my travels because it was a small and now closed PNCC parish in Connecticut that I first saw this! May our walk with Christ be inspired by our knowledge of His life and desire to share in his humanity!
Fr. Jason

The Stations of the Cross

- I—Jesus Is Sentenced to Death
- II—Jesus Takes Up His Cross
- III—Jesus Falls the First Time
- IV—Jesus Meets His Mother
- V—Simon of Cyrene Helps Carry the Cross
- VI—Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus
- VII—Jesus Falls the Second Time
- VIII—Women of Jerusalem Weep over Jesus
- IX—Jesus Falls the Third Time
- X—Jesus is Stripped of His Garments
- XI—Jesus is Crucified
- XII—Jesus Dies on the Cross
- XIII—The Body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross
- XIV—The Body of Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

February Fundraisers

February saw two successful fundraisers that, unfortunately, we don't have pictures of!

A basket was raffled off, spearheaded by Cathy Avondet that featured a number of beauty products that was won by the Bogzevitz family.

Our paczki sale took place on Fat Tuesday....and was our most successful one to date! People really, really don't like to wait in lines for their paczki it seems! Thanks to Steve Fesz for leading this venture.



XV—The Resurrection (very uncommon to be noted as a station)

Scout Sunday 2021

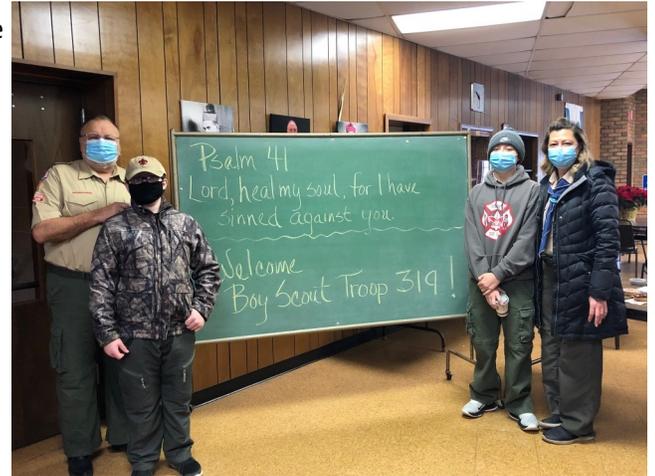
Sunday, February 7 is Scout Sunday in the United States, and we welcomed Troop 319 to our parish for worship this day.

The Polish National Catholic Church has a long and positive relationship with the scouts, with our very own retired priest, Rev. Greg Gronn as one who served the diocese as chaplain.

One of our altar servers, Damion, is a member of this troop. It is appropriate

for any acolytes who are scouts to wear their scout uniforms to serve the Lord on this day, which Damion did.

Prayers were offered during our Intercessions for Troop 319 and the protection of all Scouts.



10,000 Served!

As 2021 began, a meeting was held to determine the future of the Food Ministry program, with the decision to hold weekly meals.

This allowed a wonderful event to take place on Wednesday, February 10, as the 10,000th meal of the program was served since its inception in 2013.

Unbeknownst to Deacon Jim, his family planned a surprise, and on Sunday, February 21, right before he was to chant the dismissal to conclude Holy Mass, Fr. Jason "hushed" him.

Acknowledging the event from weeks prior and inviting two of his grandsons up to the sanctuary, a beautiful plaque was presented to Deacon Jim and the parish, honoring the ministry and sacrifice of time and treasure.

The meal has continued on since with even greater numbers! We are thankful for the support and look forward to honoring the program again once meal #25,000 is served... in late 2024 or so!



The "hushing of Deacon Jim"



Ash Wednesday at St. Mary's

Ash Wednesday serves as a physical and gritty welcome to the Lenten Season. We are called to be marked with the sign of Cross upon our foreheads (or, sprinkled on top of our heads) in order to regard God's glory and our desire to be improved before Him.

A service of Blessing of Ashes and Litany of the Passion of our Lord was held at Noon while the Holy Mass of Ash Wednesday was held at 7pm. All clergy distributed ashes at the services, remaining cognizant of the limitations of the pandemic.



Fish Fry #1

In what has become an annual practice at the first Parish Board/Committee meeting, a tentative list of fundraisers is presented for dissection and discussion. Fr. Jason prepares the list, which includes events from the past year, perhaps one from a half-decade ago, some restaurant fundraisers, food prep parties, and more; all spaced out to provide some recuperation time for our hard-working Polish National Catholics!

Blessed we were, as right after the meeting, it was asked if we could even

expand on the prepared list- and voila! Two fish fries and a pierogi dinner planned during the Lenten Season. On Friday, February 26, we hosted our first from 4:30-6pm, drive-thru only. It was well-received and attended, with many looking forward to our next one.

Many thanks to George Ziefle, copilot Steve Fesz and all who help taking on these fish fries! The next will be Friday, March 12.



Parish Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Mary's took place on Sunday, February 28 in the Fellowship Hall. After much hand-wrapping and a postponement from late January, after reaching out to various parishes and seeing what they were doing, we were comfortable to hold our meeting. Our concern was whether we would have a large enough group to well-represent the totality of the membership of St. Mary's.

Once we got rolling, the meeting went well! It was like any other Annual meeting, with a budget approved, fundraisers discussed, financials broken down, a recounting of the previous

year and some plans for the rest of the current year. Thank you to all who exercised the awesome democratic responsibility in attending and voting at this meeting!



Honoring St. Blaise

Though the Feast of St. Blaise was on a Wednesday, we still blessed throats in his honor on Sunday, February 7 at both Holy Masses held that day. The blessing is to honor Blaise and his healing ministry, namely how he res-

cued a little boy who was choking on a fishbone. It was by Blaise's prayer and petitioning God that the boy was saved. Conveniently, the prayer and blessing offered by the clergy in

early February usually corresponds with a healthy portion of the congregation having had some winter respiratory issues!



Easter Kolaczki



Church-made, freshly-baked
24 total, assorted flavored kolaczki \$14

available baked or unbaked

Pick-up: Saturday, April 3 8am – 10am

St. Mary's PNCC 5375 Broadview Rd, Parma 44134

Questions?

Please call or text: Patti 216-801-1063
Susan 440-781-7912

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter



**DINING
FUNDRAISER**

Present this flyer to your server or note "STMARYS" when placing your online order and 15% of your bill will be donated to

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Present this flyer for dine-in or takeout on

April 6, 2021

8188 BRECKSVILLE ROAD
440-546-7680

TEXT BURNTWOOD TO 33733 TO ORDER



Various Announcements

FISH FRY FRIDAY – This Friday March 12th, we feature our 2nd Lenten Fish Fry of the season, again from 4:30-6pm. There will be 2 dinner options this time, both for \$12: The 9oz beer battered pollock or 12 fried shrimp. Each meal comes with fries, creamy coleslaw, tarter/cocktail sauce, and dessert. We hope you are able to attend and pass the word on.

ITEMS AVAILABLE – As we continue the process of “tidying our home”, we do have some items that we are taking out of storage and offering to our parishioners – please stop in the basement hall and, if something catches your eye, make a free-will donation.

REMINDER – To “spring” clocks forward this coming Saturday night, March 13!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER– Today, and for all of March, we use the 3rd Eucharistic Prayer on Page 84, the Canon of St. Basil.

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION –We have begun another guided Food Collection. Once again, we will be collecting on behalf of the Parma Hunger Center, located

at Parma Lutheran Church, and our own parish weekly Food Ministry. For next Sunday, March 14, please bring baby food, kids snacks, and individually wrapped snacks.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS – Friday Lenten Devotions began Friday, February 19 with Stations of the Cross and continue each Friday during Lent, alternating between Stations and Sorrowful Lamentations. They will be accompanied by a short sermon or the Benediction/Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Exposition is scheduled for March 5 at Stations & March 26 at Lamentations.

EASTER KOLACZKI – You can place your Easter Kolaczki order with the forms near the parish mailboxes, by speaking to Patti Dotson or Susan Boehnlein.

NATIONAL PNCC RETREAT – The PNCC will be holding a National Lenten Retreat, in the same vein as the discipleship spiritual retreat that was held in January. This will take place on Tuesday, March 23 at 7pm. If there is interest, we may look to hold a group viewing in the Fellowship Hall once again. See Fr. Jason with any questions or if

you'd rather attend this from home.

OLD PALMS – We will collect your old palms during the season of Lent so that we can burn them on Holy Saturday, preparing the New Fire for our parish. Please take note of the collection boxes over the next few weeks.

ADULT CATECHISM – We had our first class this past week, and will have another on March 17 at 6pm. It was enjoyed by those in attendance and remains open for others to join – the class (roughly) follows the PNCC Catechism. See Fr. Jason with any questions.

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING – Our Annual Meeting took place this past Sunday in our Fellowship Hall. Though a bit different than normal, we are very thankful for those who did attend. A budget was approved, fundraisers were broached, reports were reviewed, and we put 2020 behind us for good!

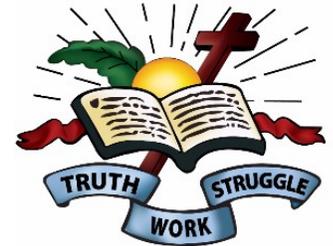
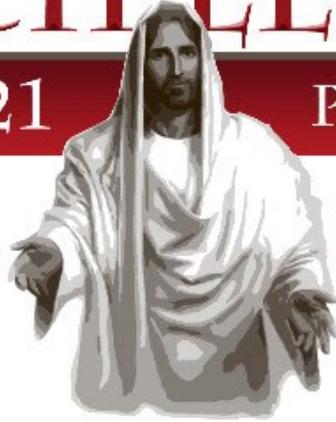
REMINDER – There are still a few “unclaimed” boxes of offering envelopes. We are happy to set up a delivery if you are unable to come to church to get them, as they are quite expensive to mail. Please contact Fr. Jason or Elaine to do so.

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2021

PNCC



March 2021 – Bishop Francis Hodur

During the month of March when our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Polish National Catholic Church was organized by Father Francis Hodur and hardworking Polish immigrants who were treated poorly and marginalized. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky gives us a beautiful reflection on organizer and first Bishop Francis Hodur.

[Click Here to watch a short video message on Prime Bishop Francis Hodur by our current Prime Bishop, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky](#) (or visit PNCC Future Direction on Youtube)

Scriptures for Reflection

Wisdom 5:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; John 15:1-7

Reflection & Action Item:

Bishop Francis Hodur was called by God and his people to organize our Polish National Catholic Church. This began on the second Sunday of March in 1897. Bishop Hodur said: "Our Church cannot be a blind, soulless copy of any Christian church. It must reach to the source of religious life, Christ the Lord. If we do not have Jesus' principles more adapted to life and effectively active, we do not have the right to life. Therefore, to work!"

Almighty and merciful God, You called a humble priest, Father Francis Hodur, to be Your servant and to awaken Your people for work in Your vineyard. Grant that, as we remember Your call to us this month, our faith may be made firm and our hearts may be enkindled by the fire of sacrificial love.

Find two ways in which you can make Christ's principles and teachings more effective and evident in your life as we remember our First Bishop and how he followed and served Jesus.



Parish Action Item:

- (1) Schedule Mass for Healing
- (2) Schedule and Conduct a Lenten Retreat (In person or via Zoom)

New Church Event Scheduled

We thank all who joined us for our National Church Discipleship Retreat "We Will Trust in You on Wednesday January 20th. Due to the significant feedback and requests our Future Direction committee will be hold a PNCC wide virtual Lenten Retreat on Tuesday March 23rd beginning at 7 pm (EST). Save the day and time. More information will be forthcoming on this virtual gathering.

Prayer in time of National Anxiety

Let us pray...I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation and our world. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of our country and all people. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of all people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

PNCC Future Direction is on Facebook! Like us and follow our updates on Facebook too. 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 to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

Wishing you and your family a Blessed Pre-Lenten (Septuagesima) season. May God bless you; may our Lord calm this storm and may our Blessed Mother intercede for us. Have a blessed day and be safe, careful, healthy and faithful as disciples!

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

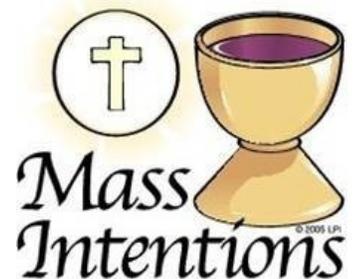
We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:

- Growth and Membership
- Increase Spirituality
- Lifelong Learning
- Sacred Vocations
- Community involvement and presence

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

- March 7 – John Paul Repko of. by daughter Cheryl Repko
10:30: Rt. Rev. Jan Dawidziuk (9th Anv.) of. by family
- March 14– Joan Spilka of. by husband John Spilka
- March 21– Patty (Dumanski) Warner of. by Patty Temesi
- March 28– Hanna Pryer of. by husband Len & family
- April 4 – No Intentions taken—Happy Easter!
- April 11 – Raymond J. Kovach Jr. of. by Cheryl Repko
- April 18 – Rose, Walter, & Edward Franczak of. by John Spilka
- April 25 – Bob Hunek of. by wife Claire

***Next open dates: June 20, 27, July 4, August 8, 15, 29**



March Days of Note



March Birthdays

- 7th – Bill Kastak
- 7th – Nate Ploskonka
- 17th – Linda Sobolewski
- 18th – Barb Bogzevitz
- 18th – Lauren O'Conner
- 19th – Karen Dicken
- 25th – David Adams
- 26th – Evonne Pryer
- 27th – Don Burger
- 29th – Amanda Ploskonka

March Anniversaries

None—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



Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org
like St. Mary's in Parma, OH
on Facebook or subscribe to
our YouTube channel

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YouTube Channel

"Christ Has No Body "

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands,
no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes
with which he looks
Compassion on this world,

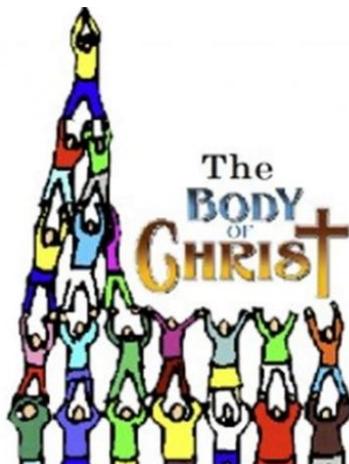
Yours are the feet
with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands,
with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands,
yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes,
you are his body.

Christ has no body now
but yours,
No hands,
no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes
with which he looks
compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth
but yours.

Teresa of Avila 1515-1582



Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Barbara Baranowski
Bill Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig Atherton	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Len Pryer
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Ralph Crispino
David Micka	Carol Hreha
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	John Radon
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Wendy Andrzejewski
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Linda Marks	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Rhonda Smith
Emma Freshwater	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Tom Slomka
Gerl S.	Ben Soltis
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Kelly B	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Bp. John Mack-
David Vaden	Bp. John Swantek
Mary Cawley	Richard & Edna Samelson
Jim Giles	Tammy Teubl
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Anthony Grad	Azriel G.
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Shannon Alberino
Jayden Pieciak	Baby Layla
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Kim Penney
George & Linda Makovicka	Julie L.
Barbara B.	Patrick Kmitt
Michael McGivern	Daniel Morgan
Barb & Jim Lukas	Renee Lukas
Mike Matis	Leslie Rafalko
Ronald & Elaine Tiffe	Mike Pescitelli
Bill Walo	Janice Bielecki

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