

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2018

Pastor: Rev. Jason H. Soltysiak
frjason82@gmail.com

Parish Chair: Mrs. Elaine Ploskonka
elaineploskonka@gmail.com
Cell: (216)536-3496



Candlemania!

It wasn't that long ago when I made my first trip to St. Mary's in the summer of 2013 with my wife Natalie. Bishop Bilinski had invited us out to sort of get a glimpse of the parish, just in case things broke out in one way or another.

We stayed in downtown Cleveland because it was nice out and thought it'd be fun to walk around— it was. It also happened to be the night of the NBA Draft when the Cleveland Cavaliers had the first pick and chose...Anthony Bennett. Don't remember him? Neither does anyone else. I do recall walking outside of a bar and hearing an audible gasp of disappointment from the faithful watching on TV.

Though that was a vivid memory of our first trip Cleveland...there was another. I remember coming up the back stairs (from the basement) to enter into the church. I scoped out the pillars, pews, altar...and wait a second...why were there two eternal lights set up in the Sanctuary?



It was something I had never seen (but I have seen evidence of this elsewhere). Bishop explained that, simply, you can always keep an eye on the candle and light the one on the opposite side to keep it "eternal."

This is also the first parish I am at where an actual candle, not a light bulb, stands as the Eternal Lamp/ Sanctuary Lamp/Wieczny Lampa/ Tabernacle Lamp/Chancel Lamp/ Everlasting Flame/...I'll call it "Eternal Light" throughout. Which means, it is something I have to think about every 8-10 days now.

Sometimes, I admit that it annoys me when that dang lamp is going out again. That looks pretty bad on paper, doesn't it? But I relent always, and do the job with the reverence that is needed. And it is needed— let's have a look at the history behind this omnipresent fixture at (almost) all houses of worship.

Exodus 27:20-21 (NRSV) states: "You shall further command the Israelites to bring you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, so that a lamp may be set up to burn regularly. In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that is before the covenant, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to

St. Mary's P.N.C.C.
5375 Broadview Road
Parma, OH 44134
Office/Hall Phone: 216-661-9246
Rectory Phone: 216-741-8154
Email: stmarypncc@sbcglobal.net
www.stmaryspncc.org
Like us on Facebook-St. Mary's Parma OH

morning before the Lord. It shall be a perpetual ordinance to be observed throughout their generations by the Israelites.

"Ner Tamid" is the "Eternal Light" that burns in Jewish Synagogues today. Per the Encyclopedia Britannica: "It reminds the congregation of the holiness of the Torah scrolls that are stored within the ark and calls to mind God's abiding presence and his providential care of the Jewish people. The Ner Tamid also represents the light that burned continuously in the western section of the ancient Temple of Jerusalem.

As we are a faith evolved from Judaism, we have taken this tradition and have used it to mark our holiest of holies in the church itself: Jesus Christ, present in the Tabernacle in the Consecrated Body.

The lamps have evolved: churches were required to use burning olive oil up until the 2nd Vatican Council. Though we are not Roman Catholic, we often follow along with some of their rules (especially because they often determine what is sold at religious goods stores).

The lamp may be freestanding, hung over the Altar, or attached to the wall. It should never be far away from the Tabernacle in the Catholic Church. A recent development has been Tabernacles not in the center of the church—the Eternal Light

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

Fr. Jason's Article (Cont)

would then be located nearer the place where Jesus Christ is reserved.

This merits mentioning as we are about halfway through the Lenten Season. The only time of year that this Eternal Light gets "messed with" is during Holy Week, beginning with the Holy Thursday Reposition Liturgy.

If you recall attending Holy Thursday Mass, it concludes awkwardly...a word I love to use during the *Triduum*, or the last 3 days of Holy Week. Mass concludes with a short procession of the Eucharist from the Tabernacle to one of repose, usually in

a side altar or similar removed area. This is done to symbolize the arrest of Jesus, and his removal from his disciples and society. At this point, the altars would be stripped and the main Eternal Light extinguished, with a new one lighted where the Eucharist, that True Presence of Christ, is now reposed at the side altar.

The symbolism is wonderfully spiritual, and it is done with chaotic sections of Psalms being read while the Sanctuary of the church is turned upside-down.

As I noted a few weeks back in explaining Votive Candles, I wanted to speak of this one. Jewish in its his-



tory, but very much Catholic in its telling of the True Presence of Christ.

Fr. Jason

Various Announcements

Lenten Devotions

Lenten Devotions take place every Friday evening at 6pm—Please consider joining us!

Pierogi Dinner

As you may have seen on the front sign or in the flyers, St. Mary's is having a Lenten Pierogi Dinner on Friday night, March 16th from 4:30-7pm. Dinner features St. Mary's church-made pierogi (pierogi making this Saturday, the 10th!), a cup of New England Clam Chowder or Potato Soup, 5 Kolachy cookies, and coffee for \$7. Please pass on the info and hope to see you for dinner!

PTO Bake Sale

Please make a note to bake for Palm Sunday, March 25 for the Annual PTO Bake Sale. This is a big one, and we need all bakers on board!

Mission & Evangelism Workshop

Information has been released for the 18th Mission and Evangelism Workshop, which is April 27-29 at All Saints Parish in Carnegie, PA, only 2 hours away. Please see the bulletin

board for more info – hoping for nice representation from St. Mary's.

Pick a Number!

St. Mary's Pick a Number fundraiser has come to a close—winners will be announced in the upcoming weekly bulletins. Thanks to all who donated!

Bible Study

A new section of Bible Study has begun. We are studying "Jesus' Final Week" a guided study that will bring us to Easter. We meet again March 14 and March 28.

Lenten Prayer Cross

The Mission Team is sponsoring the Lenten Prayer Cross. It was placed in the back, parking lot side corner of the church. Please take on this Lenten discipline of devotion and increased prayer and plan on placing your prayers upon it.

Lenten Food Drive

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 & distributed to our local community. This will be a four week

collection, culminating on Passion Sunday, March 18. Donations can be placed on the table in the back corner of the church. Cash donations can be made in the board room.

Men's Spiritual Retreat

The National YMSofR is sponsoring a Men's Spiritual Retreat at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center in Waymart, PA from May 17-19. Transportation can be provided— see Cleric Jim or Fr. Jason if interested.

Dates to Note

May 17-19: Men's Spiritual Retreat, Waymart, PA

June 8-9: Bowling Tournament, Waymart, PA

June 29-30: Choir Concert: Sterling Heights, MI

June 30-July 7: Children's Kurs Camp, Waymart, PA

July 23-27: Convo 2018, Scranton, PA

August 17-18: Golf Tournament, Buffalo, NY

October 1-3: General Synod, Illinois

October 23-30: World Series, Boston, MA

Pre-Lent and Lent

The Season of Pre-Lent went off without a hitch, as it included the Throat Blessing in honor of St. Blaise at Holy Mass on February 6, our Synod election Meeting on February 11, and our Holy Hotcakes Dinner & Paczki sale on February 13.



Unfortunately, we didn't do a great job with pictures, but we will report on these events as such:

The Throat Blessing was a first for Cleric Jim, as he practiced with wooden spoons on his dogs at home and on mannequins whilst out shopping for weeks beforehand. Happily, the blessed candles from Candlemas held their strength, and the entire congregation (by my last count) has avoided the most basic of common colds since that blessing.

Congratulations to parish chairperson Elaine Ploskonka and Cleric Jim Ploskonka, who were voted in as our delegates to October's General Synod. David Micka and Michele Misiewicz-Berry are serving as alternates.

Our Holy Hotcakes Dinner wasn't quite as successful as last year...but the Paczki sale was even more successful. Both will be re-evaluated for next Fat Tuesday, as the

locals have begun to realize they can get Rudy's Paczki at St. Mary's with no line rather than waiting 30 minutes for their Fat Tuesday delicacy.

As Lent began on Ash Wednesday, we did our normal services of the past few years of the Litany of the Passion at noon on as well as Holy Mass at 7pm. Ashes were blessed and distributed at both services, as well as after Holy Mass on Sunday the 18th, the First Sunday of Lent. Again, it was Cleric Jim's first chance to distribute Ashes...and again, the dogs and mannequins were properly marked earlier that day.



Our Lenten Devotions began on the first Friday of Lent, the 16th. At 6pm each Friday, we rotate between Stations of the Cross and Bitter Lamentations.

On the 24th, a few of us ventured out to continue our Lenten journeys at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI. There is another Newsletter constructed for this event—it will be

emailed with this one and available on our website, stmaryspncc.org.



Our Restaurant Fundraiser, one that we do every so often, took place on February 26 at the LongHorn Steakhouse. Unfortunately, the only picture I have is a selfie of Brady and I! Though I am tired of seeing my own picture in the newsletter, he did enjoy staring at his dad's meal as well as bask in the compliments of the two other tables of parishioners seated around us. What a ham! And even better, we were able to profit \$250 for the parish!



PNCC Future Directions Update

February 21, 2018

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,

The theme for our March 2018 Future Direction message is Celebrating Lent as a Family. We are sending this out a week early as we are now in the beginning stages of our Lenten journey. Here is a list of various ideas for you and your family to do together that will make this a more meaningful walk with Christ, an important time of renewal and growing closer to our Lord, His Church and your family.

- 1- Attend the special Lenten Masses, services and retreat at your parish as a family
- 2- Encourage each other in our intensified works of charity, prayer and fasting
- 3- Marking the family's calendar NOW to plan on attending the special liturgies during Holy Week together.
- 4- Volunteer as a family to help those in need in whatever way is needed in your respective community
- 5- Serve at or donate to a soup kitchen or soup pantry as a family.
- 6- A clothing drive – 40 days 40 Items as a family
- 7- Practice Kindness daily: no gossip, no complaining, complement others, be supportive
- 8- Donate blood together
- 9- Participate in the 30 hour famine or do one as a family
- 10- Visit someone who is sick, in a nursing home or homebound as a family
- 11- Offer a daily Lenten Meditation or scriptural reading as a family prior to or after the family shared meal
- 12- Pray the Litany of the Passion together as a family on one day of the week. *PNCC Prayer book*
- 13- Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary as a family
- 14- Replace 30 minutes of screen time (TV/Computer/iPad/Smart Phone) with 30 minutes of prayer/devotion/scripture reading
- 15- Pick a day during Lent to go screen free (no internet/TV)
- 16- If you cannot attend stations of the cross or sorrowful lamentations as a family – then as a family pray them from our PNCC prayer book
- 17- Making an almsgiving jar or collection box to collect change and money that goes to help others in some way.
- 18- "Charity Starts at Home Day"--picking a special day in which each member of the family performs acts of loving service for another member
- 19- Sing a Lenten hymn together as a family after a shared meal – play one from YouTube
- 20- If you have younger children – coloring together Lenten pictures – downloaded and printed
- 21- Read the passion together as a family – Matthew 26 & 27; Mark 14 & 15; Luke 22 & 23 and John 18 & 19
- 22- Watching a movie about the life of the Lord together and discussing afterward
- 23- Choose a Lenten sacrifice to do as a family i.e. not eating out, not going to a movie, concert or event during Lent.
- 24- Attend a Meal in the Upper Room if one is offered at your parish as a family
Share a symbolic Passover Meal as a family
Meal in the Upper Room overview – [Click Here](#)
- 25- As a family prepare an Easter basket to be brought to church to be blessed or an Easter table for the priest to come and bless



Prayer for Lent (can be offer together as a family - adapted from catholic.org)

God, heavenly Father, look upon us and hear our prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help us to discipline our bodies and to be renewed in spirit. Without You we can do nothing. By Your Spirit help us to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach us to find new life through penance. Keep us from sin, and help us live by Your commandment of love. God of love, bring us back to You. Send Your Spirit to make us strong in faith and active in good works. May our acts of penance bring us Your forgiveness, open our hearts to Your love, and prepare us for the coming feast of



PNCC Future Directions Update (continued)

the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish us with Your Word of life and make us one with You in love and prayer. Fill our hearts with Your love and keep us faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give us the grace to rise above our human weakness. Give us new life by Your Sacraments, especially Your presence we receive in the Eucharist during Mass. Father, our source of life, we reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let us walk more readily in Your ways. Guide us in Your gentle mercy, for left to ourselves we will flounder.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help us to pass from an old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare us for the glory of Your Kingdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen

PNCC Future Direction is now 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. Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.

As we begin this Holy Year of the Family may we look to the example of the Holy Family and put God's will first in our lives. May God bless you and your family as we begin this new Year in our Lord 2018.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. 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

Action Plan for PNCC Parishes in 2018: The Year of the Family

1. Greater Understanding of Church Solemnities: Humble Shepherds
2. Two Days of Retreat: Lent and Advent
3. Complete at least five community service projects
4. Implementing the Year of the Family Component
5. Implement Lay Ministry Program in PNCC
6. Move forward with PNCC Office of News & Media Relations
7. Create a PNCC Future Direction Facebook Page
8. Constant Prayer for our October 2018 General Synod



February 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
- 28th – Michael Ference

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

"Lenten Poem"

Lent is a time to take time to
let the power of our faith story
take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the
streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea
and listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge
through us,
a time to ponder
and a time to wonder....
Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid
to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid
to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know
we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

-- Anne Weems --



Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig Atherton	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Len Pryer
Marty Bengela	Gerald Beres
Polly Gajda	Frank & Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Chester & Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Gail Perz	Amy Dreger

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Sharon Seitz
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Mark & Kim Andreas	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Al Tomasello
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
Mary Cawley	Edna Samelson
Kim Blaha	Geri S.
Wanda Heffner	Larry Bernacki
Donna Kidd	Colleen Howard
Muffie B.	Nancy Jablonowski
Marilyn Girard	Larry Hoekstra
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Coleen Fisteck
Marcia Klein	Mike Sikut
George & Linda Makovicka	

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

Gene Mora

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY

ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org