

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

July 2018

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Sense of Touch

Over the past few weeks, I have been called to administer the Sacrament of Anointing a few times. As my years in ministry have advanced, I've become better at explaining the history of the Sacrament, the falling-away from the term "Last Rites", as well as providing its scriptural basis.

Mainly, I want to make sure when that Holy Oil stock comes out, fear doesn't arise in the room.

When I studied at seminary from 2004-2007, all of these things were taught and re-taught to the men studying there. It hit me hard, because I was, as many still are 10+ years later, clueless of a distinction.

It was also taught how else the Sacrament had evolved—for so long of a time, the Sacrament included the anointing of the senses—the ways in which we experience life...and the ways we experience sin. Therefore, the forehead, eyelids, earlobes, each nostril, lips, feet, and hands would be anointed.



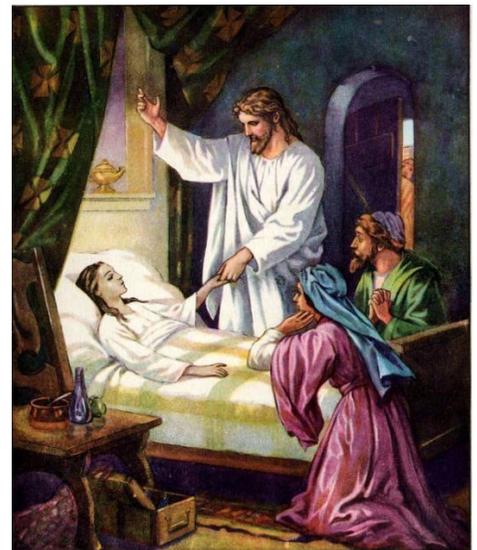
After time, it became permissible that the anointing of the forehead would cover all the senses, because everything stems from the brain. This is what was taught to me in my formation.

The Sacrament is very interpersonal—it has to be. It can include the Sacrament of Penance within it, making it all the more special, all the more powerful. When you administer that private confession, of course some deep conversation and connection must take place. If the person is not able to communicate, the Sacrament is still viable. In fact, if the person has already died, the Sacrament is viable still—the forgiveness portion, the healing of soul portion, not the healing of body/ailments.

And touch is such a part of it. Some Sacraments require touch—in Baptism, the priest blesses senses as well. In Confirmation, the bishop strikes a blow to the cheek and anoints as well. In Holy Orders, hands are laid upon the chosen, and anointing takes place. There is no touch in Matrimony, Eucharist, or Penance.

Touch was, of course, imperative to the ministry of Jesus Christ. One of the recent Sunday Gospels made sure that we are fully aware of what touch can do. It was from Mark 5:21-43, which contained the stories of the hemorrhaging woman and the synagogue leader's dead daughter.

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Two miracles, two performed with the touch of Jesus Christ. Now, as Son of God and as God on Earth, we know that he did not *have* to lay a finger on anyone—that his recognition of another's faith could lead to incredible things.

The first miracle was passive— Jesus, moving from place to place, and the bleeding woman reaching out to touch just his cloak. I remember as a kid hearing this and being surprised that Christ could feel "healing power" leave him.

The disciples, of course, were surprised at a different aspect of this. Verse 31 says "And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" It was as if they lost faith that Jesus could single someone out in this manner. Jesus commends her faith.

Before making it to the ailing little girl, the party is informed that she has died...but Jesus insists they continue

Fr. Jason's Article (Cont)

further to see her. You could only imagine the hysterics and anger as he walked into a room with the corpse of a little girl and horribly upset people wailing about and him basically stating "Actually, you all are wrong, you're crying for no reason, she's asleep."

Scholars believe that she most likely was dead to this point in time—that the

people there were not wrong. But boy, would they have been mad! Verse 41-42 says "He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha, koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around."

The taking by the hand, the touch. The visiting and consolation of the family. These things all still happen today when a priest is called in for a visit, for anointing.

Unfortunately, the calls come in much less than they used to. Priests have fallen a bit out of the equation. But let scripture show you that Christ, even at the most difficult moments of life, must be invited in your midst, in the form of the Sacraments, to be that comfort, to let that healing power escape.

Fr. Jason

Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi Sunday takes place the last Sunday of the post-Easter, pre-Ordinary time schedule.

Over the last few years, we worked to re-institute the meaningful Corpus Christi Procession.

This year—with the near-completion of the new garage providing a walkway around the main church edifice, we took our procession outside.

The Love of God Sodality dressed the four altars at the (approximate) four cor-

ners of the church. The congregation participated with curiosity, enjoying the beautiful weather God provided that day (it down-poured hours later!)

Perhaps a new tradition is now at hand here at St. Mary's.



Semi-Annual Meeting

The parish decided to hold a Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 24. The second Mass was cancelled that day in order to accommodate all to have the ability to attend.

The agenda was a bit different from an annual meeting: in fact, the focus

was on much of Fr. Jason's pastoral report, which included the subjects of Evangelism and some decline in various aspects of the parish.

Thanks to all who attended, and may we work to spread the message of the Gospel!

Democracy in Action



Various Announcements

Flowers

Towards the end of last summer, Father Jason began asking parishioners to bring in flowers from their home gardens to beautify the church. The call goes out again – the desire for fresh flowers remains. If you would like to bring in flowers to put on the main altar for a Sunday, please arrange with Fr. Jason so he can make sure it is acknowledged. We would love to schedule as many Sundays as possible!

YMSofR Golf Tournament

Will be held on Sat. August 18 in the Buffalo, NY area. We would still love for St. Mary's to be well-represented. Please clear your schedule and grab a foursome!

Bakers Wanted!

Anyone! - Please consider bringing a homemade baked good or two to the

Bake Sale that takes place at the Car Show. Attendees are very hungry and look very much forward to our sale!

Mass Requests

There are a few open 9am Masses on a Sunday to remember a loved one in prayer through October. Please see Fr. Jason. Available are 8/5, 9/23, 9/30/, 10/28. If you would like an intention at the second Mass, be it in English or Polish, most are open as well.

Convo 2018

Takes place July 23-27. Please keep the young and not-so-young that will be attending this year. As Fr. Jason cannot attend, we will be represented by Ethan Long, who will be traveling with our PNC neighbors from the Detroit area. We look forward to his pictures and his thoughts about the event.

Dinner and a Car Show

The Ninth Annual Dinner and a Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, August 4th on the parish grounds (with a rain date of Sunday, the 5th). Please note that there will also be a Saturday afternoon Mass. Flyers are available – please take some with you and post them at the places you frequent.

PolishFest 2018

The dates have been set – the PolishFest will take place Friday-Sunday, September 7-9. If possible, please allow your schedule to accommodate volunteering at this event.

Choir Concert

As noted in the write up, the choir performed in the Diocesan Concert. The Concert is available to watch on Youtube— St. Mary's performs at about the 13 minute mark— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYvBRBwmc88&t=1090s>

School of Christian Living Closing & Clergy Appreciation

As Sunday, June 3 allowed us time for the Corpus Christi Procession, we kept the Mass schedule to just one, as we had a lot more to do.

First was our SOCL closing. Our superintendent, Barb Bogzevitz, was gracious enough to make preparations for the day. During our prayers of intercession at Mass, the students and teachers were called up to each receive a token of appreciation from the parish for a successful year of study. Certificates were then presented in the hall afterward, along with a cake.

Also, per the National Church and by call of our Prime Bishop, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, we were called to appreciate our clergy as we introduced the month of June, with is Sacred Vocations month. During each Sunday Mass in June, we particularly prayed for an increase of Vocations throughout Christianity and in our denomination.

After Mass, each of our clergy members were called up—Cleric Jim Ploskonka, as he began his clerical journey not too long ago; Rev. Greg Gronn, our retired priest, and Rev. Jason Soltysiak/Brady's dad, our pastor. They were each given a gift and a round of applause. A cake was also decorated with frosting showing the parish's appreciation.



Choir Concert

Members of the Choir of St. Mary's in Parma, Ohio participated in the biennial concert of the Western Diocese on Saturday, June 30 at All Saints Parish in Sterling Heights, MI.

The concert floats every two years to the seniorates of the Western Diocese (we are up in 2020!). Here, the choirs from individual areas get together and sing a few songs on their own as well as combined numbers—songs that are practiced at parishes but not rehearsed together until the morning of the concert!

Fortunately, that has been a recipe for success for a long while now—in fact, this was the 61st Concert.. As noted in our announcement section, you can listen to the concert in its entirety—but please enjoy some pictures from the event, provided by Kathy Chockley, member of our sister parish of Holy Cross in Hamtramck, MI.



PNCC Future Directions Update

July 1, 2018

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

As we continue this Year of the Family across our Holy Polish National Catholic Church and now enjoy the summer months we focus this month on the importance of quality family time.

Whether on vacation or just regular time set aside for the family is so very important. This time strengthens our family bonds. It gives time to talk, listen and pray with each other; time to teach your children important life lessons, to show affection, appreciation, love and support; to instill and strengthen Christian values in your children and family members; to cherish family rituals and traditions such as going to worship and prayer on special days such as Christmas and Easter, special family gatherings and celebrations.



Make the time for your family this summer and always. If you are taking a family vacation enjoy each other's company and continue to strengthen your family bond. Don't forget the importance of time in prayer and worship even while away from your home parish.

There are many ways that you can spend family time together – for example share a meal together without the distraction of tv and cell phones, learn what is happening in each other's lives by just talking and sharing. Make time to play cards, games or sports, go for a walk together, have a family service project to help others in need, watch movies or share hobbies. Pray together, love together, serve others together, be Jesus to each other by having unconditional love for one another. Strong Christian families are able to withstand setbacks and crisis with a positive loving attitude, shared values of the Gospel and our faith in Christ Jesus that will help cope with challenging times.

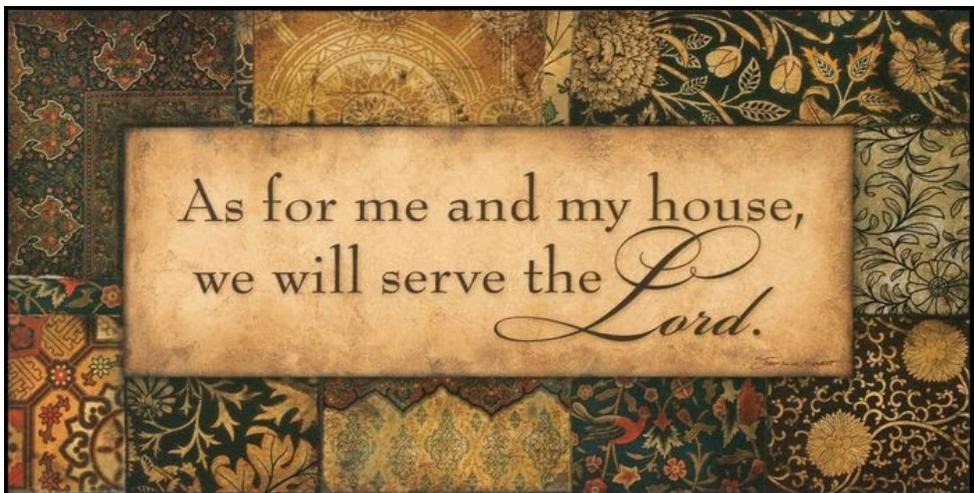
You know just how important it is to have quality time with your family – how do you spend yours?



Prayer for Families (PNCC Prayer Book – 2010)

God, our Heavenly Father, You have blessed each of us with the gift of family that through our family life we may learn to love and care for others. Open our eyes to recognize in all people the bonds of kinship. May we unselfishly serve them who with us have been made co-heirs with Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ. Amen. The Synod of our Holy Church is quickly approaching. As we are just a few months away – let us pray for this Holy Gathering.

Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, Grant us Your grace and blessing, as we prepare to gather together in Holy Synod to seek the Lord Jesus through Your Holy Church. Send Your Holy Spirit upon our Holy Church, that we may be guided by Your Holy Will. Strengthen our bishops, clergy and laity who will gather so that their decisions at Holy Synod may help lead others to Your Son Jesus Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.



PNCC Future Directions Update (continued)

Pictured below is the first PNCC Synod in 1904 in Scranton, PA.



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.

We are encouraging all our parishes to please keep in your prayers our upcoming Holy Synod now just five months away. In preparation for our Holy Synod we are asking for you to share with our committee pictures and testimonials from successes that you have experienced as you implemented the future direction over these past four years. Please email them to FutureDirection@pncc.org

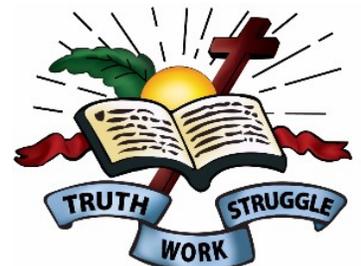
We hope you enjoy quality time with your family and have a blessed summer.

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



July Days of Note



July

- 4th – Jolanta Misiewicz
- 16th – Chris Paulus
- 17th – Frank Dominik
- 21st – Father Jason
- 22nd – Sara Long
- 24th – Jennifer LeMessina
- 25th – Martha Repede
- 25th – Chester Warzala
- 27th – Joan Kastak
- 30th – Barbara Fesz
- 31st – Susan Harper
- 31st – Sandra Harper



- 14th – John & Andrea Grmovsek
- 20th – Michael & Carole D'Arcy
- 21st – Jim & Elaine Ploskonka
- 27th – Mike & Chris Paulus

One Nation Without God

America, the beautiful.
Home of the brave and free,
is threatened by an evil
that we don't seem to see.

We are "One nation, under God".
Guided by His loving light,
but we'll be a nation "without"
God
if we don't stand and fight.

We, the vast majority,
must join hand in hand
before the small minority
takes God's name from our land.

No matter our religion,
we have a job to do;
We must band together
to defeat the ungodly few.

God gave us freedom in this land
to worship and to pray.
How can we idly just sit by
watching it be taken away?

There is a God in Heaven.
Let's not let His light go dim.
How can He bless us from above
if we won't acknowledge Him?

• **Ron Tranmer-**

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	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Frank & Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Gail Perz	Amy Dreger
Halina Dreger	Patti Dotson

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 Dzurhoff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Bill Hinton
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	Paulette Lilli
Muffie B.	Nancy Jablonowski
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Julia Badarzynski
George & Linda Makovicka	Mike Sikut
Anthony Soltysiak	

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

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

Visit us online at
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