

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2016

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The End is Near!!!

As the days of 2016 wind down, the nights come earlier and the world seems colder, we are welcomed by Sunday morning scripture that seems to be influencing that almost dour turn life seems to always take in late autumn.

Before we crown Christ as King of the Universe on Christ the King Sunday, we hear things on a Sunday morning that can be some cause for concern.

On November 6 (Ordinary 32C), we hear of the seven brothers of the 2nd Book of Maccabees (2Maccabees 7:1-15). Their faith was so strong that, under the watchful eye of their faith-filled mother, they all refused to deny the laws of God, each suffering a martyr's death for their disobeying the king in this regard. They were also staunch believers in the Resurrection, that there was indeed life after death.

On November 13 (Ordinary 33C), near the conclusion of St. Luke's Gospel (21:5-19), we hear Jesus speak harrowingly on the upcoming end times. Amongst the things he says is "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will



not immediately be the end." He then goes on to describe, in fuller detail, what will happen at the end times.

Unfortunately, the details that Christ describes the end times are vivid enough that people have, sometimes quite convincingly, announced dates for the end of the world due to the evidence of war, natural disaster, or unrest as scripture describes.

One of my favorite shows, *Parks and Recreation*, looked comically on those who thought of end times. A group, once every few months, rents one of the local parks for an "end of the world" party, which includes a gathering, food, alcohol, singing, and partying. People in the community take advantage of them financially: "hey, what do you need your money for? The world ends at midnight tonight just like you said...right???"

I use a silly illustration because it is a silly exercise. Concerning end times? No one knows! I have shared this story a number of times, but in the year 2012, kids at St. Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Elementary School were convinced the world was ending. The Mayan calendar that ended in 2012, the movie entitled "2012" that showed the end...it was too much!

I turned to scripture then and can only turn to scripture now. In Matthew 24:36, Jesus says "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heav-

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en, nor the Son, but only the Father."

This November, we were served with an election for many political offices, including the President of the United States. Here in Ohio, we serve as one of the tipping points of the Union; our county very blue while most of Ohio is quite red.

Zippping around social media, I read a number of good Catholics, good celebrities, good athletes, good politicians, good clergy, and good ol' Americans stake their claims and their faith in one candidate or another, all while bemoaning the character, ethical, and personal faults of the other. Claims went as far as "I'll leave this country if H wins!" or "I'm no longer an American if T wins!"

Though only having voted in 5 presidential elections, I can't imagine there will be one more mean-spirited than this one, where former good friends became bitter political rivals. Amongst all of this were those repeated statements and ultimatums on what will happen when it's all over.

We know in our heart of hearts that very little will change, no matter what. But we do know that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

So, if the end is near, consider that the church has left you well-prepared in its liturgy and the scripture that is offered. Though half of a nation may be upset with the results, it is still our job to lift up our neighbor with our prayers, support and love...even if they voted for that other one!

Fr. Jason

Animal Blessing

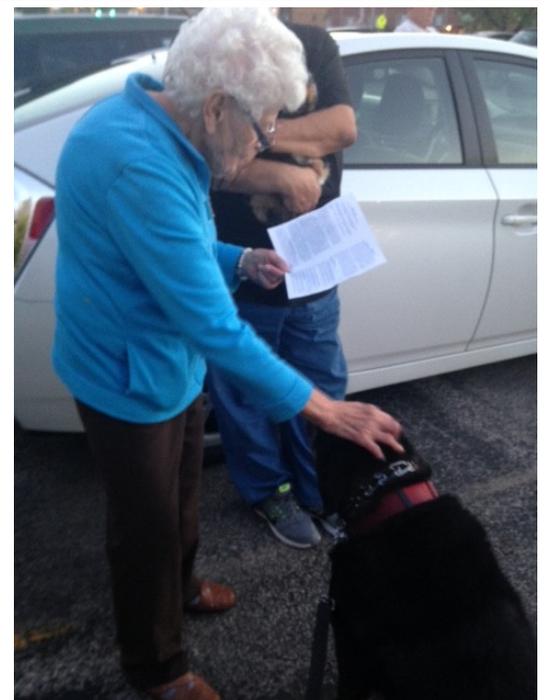
The Annual Blessing of animals and pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi took place on his Feast Day: Tuesday, October 4.

There, on beautiful and sunny weekday evening, our blessing began with song as we calmed our spirits (and perhaps some off-tune voices riled up some doggies!).

The blessing took place in our parish parking lot. Anyone who brought a pet was gifted with a treat bag, lovingly prepared by our parish chairperson Elaine Ploskonka.

The humans also were thought of! Delicious doughnuts and some wonderful seasonal apple cider were available to anyone who wanted to stick around and get acquainted a bit with some of the other animals.

Our numbers were down a bit from last year, but we still welcomed over 30 dogs and 3 cats to the party.



Presentation on the Solemnity of the Christian Family

On Wednesday, October 5th, our parish hosted a viewing of a video prepared by the Future Directions subcommittee of the PNCC as well as our Prime Bishop, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky.

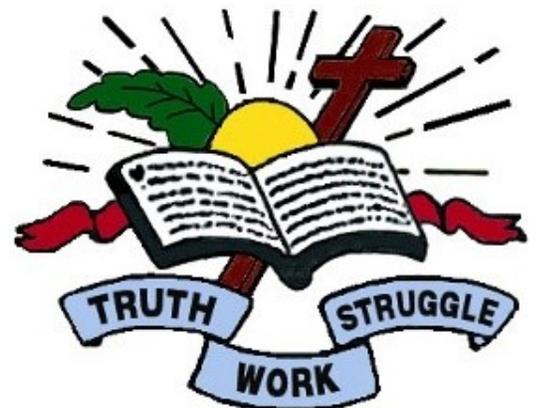
This video is available still on Youtube by visiting the site and searching "PNCC Future Direction".

We were blessed to have the Repede family "sponsor" our viewing party by providing an array of snacks. They were especially kind to Father Jason (October was clergy appreciation month!) by making sure his Achilles heel of food was present....Doritos!

Before watching the Christian Family presentation, we watched a few of the Bishop's messages. Then after the Christian Family presentation, the group decided (was it the good snacks that they didn't want to leave?) to watch the next video, *A Reenactment of the Life of Bishop Hodur*, a video play done at this past Youth Convocation in New Hampshire.

Our group at St. Mary's was enthralled by it! One

unnamed lady (Josephine) even began to rise to sing Tyle Lat at the end when the group at Convo was asked to!



Various Announcements

Mistakes

If there has been any misinformation or a missing birthday or anniversary, please let Fr. Jason know, as we want to make sure that our records and publications are nothing but accurate. Thanks!

Blood Drive

Our neighbor, Parma Lutheran, is hosting a Blood Drive once again on Sunday, November 20, 2016 from 9am til noon. It'll have been 8 weeks since the last one, so if you gave then, you are ok to give again. Flyers are posted around the church for this event.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child will conclude on Sunday, November 20th. A recap- boxes are filled with gifts, school supplies, etc. & assembled by age/gender and delivered to a child in need somewhere around the world. \$7 must be included with

each box, or you can make a \$7 donation without doing a box.

All Souls Day

Names were read and souls were remembered during 10am Mass on All Souls Day, November 2nd. All submitted names WILL be remembered before Holy Mass on November 6, 13, and 20th. If you would like your loved ones remembered in prayer during Mass, please submit their names by the 20th.

Visitations

If you have a family member or know of a parishioner that can use a pastoral visit, please contact Fr. Jason. As the holidays approach, we want to make sure our parishioners are spiritually tended-to.

Winter Clothing Drive

The United YMSofR is calling for all parishes in the PNCC to have a winter clothing drive. Branch #29 would like to make sure we participate! Please see the flyers posted

on the bulletin board in church or attached to this newsletter about how we can help.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study is focused on prayer as well as taking scenes and ideas from the 2015 movie, *The War Room*. Please consider joining us! Our schedule of meeting will be: November 16, 30, December 14 and 21.

Food Ministry

Our monthly Food Ministry was held Wed., November 2nd. Many thanks to all who offered their time to serve the needs of our community. A total of 55 meals were served. Also, we will be moving the time to the upcoming Ministry's to 4-6pm, and there will NOT be a Thanksgiving Day event this year.

Thanksgiving Day

Our Thanksgiving Day Holy Mass will be held at 10am and will be celebrated by our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski. Consider including worship as part of your Thanksgiving & still be home for football!

Clergy Appreciation

St. Mary's continued a very honorable tradition in honoring its clergy during October, Clergy Appreciation Month.

On Sunday, October 9, only one Mass was held at 10am and a potluck followed. After Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg Concelebrated the Mass for the Solemnity of the Christian

Family, they were welcomed with a cake, a card and gifts.

On behalf of Fr. Greg, many thanks to all who prayed on our behalf, who offered their kind words of support, and for the cake and gifts as well. You're the best! Fr. Jason



A note from your parish chair.....

I hope everyone is enjoying this extended beautiful fall weather! Just one more thing to be *Thankful* for!

THANKSGIVING is a time of praise and thanks to God above
For all the good things He bestows and for His boundless love.

THANKSGIVING is a time to share the bounties we receive
With those who are less fortunate and those who are in need.

THANKSGIVING is a time of joy, a time to sing and pray;
It need not be just once a year, but each and every day.

*I wish all of you a blessed,
safe, and Happy Thanksgiving!*

2016 Financial Obligations: With another year quickly coming to a close, allow this to act as your reminder that *in order for your contributions to be allocated to your 2016 requirements, all monies must be received by December 25, 2016.* The minimum requirements are:

Adult members age 18-74 = \$425 single member / \$550 couple
Adult members age 75 + = \$125 per member

Thank you for realizing the importance of spiritual, financial and physical contributions to the life of our parish!



For Sale: Someone is in need of quickly selling a chair lift, similar to the ones we have leading to the church and the basement hall. If you, or anyone you may know, are interested please let me know!

A bit of humor...

HOLY WATER One morning a man comes into the church on crutches. He stops in front of the holy water and splashes some of it on both of his legs, then throws away his crutches. An altar boy witnessed the scene and runs into the rectory to tell the priest what he'd just seen. Without batting an eye, the priest says, "Son, you've just witnessed a miracle. Tell me, where is this man?" "Flat on his butt, Father, over by the holy water."

Let's get cookin'

Pumpkin Soup

½ cup onions, minced
salt to taste
2 Tbs. chicken fat or oil
nutmeg to taste
1 cups chicken stock
toasted whole grain croutons for garnish
3 cups pumpkin puree

Sauté onions in chicken fat or oil until golden but not brown. Put in blender container with a little of the chicken stock and blend until pureed.

Combine onion mixture, remaining stock and pumpkin puree in a heavy-bottom saucepan. Heat, add salt and nutmeg to taste and serve with toasted croutons.

Makes approximately 6 cups.

(Publisher's note: Why not try this recipe with turkey fat/stock?)

Taken from The Rodale Cookbook



elaine p. phoskonka

November Days of Note



November Birthdays

5	-	Ron Ference
6	-	Alice Petrie
7	-	Kathleen Beres
11	-	Mike Matis
15	-	Mary Ann Loschelder
16	-	Craig Atherton
16	-	Mike Paulus
21	-	Krista O'Connor
22	-	Josephine Ference
24	-	Jeff Dreger
25	-	Michael Petrie
29	-	Barb Baranowski
29	-	Eliza Dreger



November Anniversaries

5- Dale & Pattie Dotson

“Dialogue Between Ghost and Priest”

In the rectory garden on his evening walk Paced brisk Father Shawn. A cold day, a sodden one it was In black November. After a sliding rain Dew stood in chill sweat on each stalk, Each thorn; spring from wet earth, a blue haze Hung caught in dark-webbed branches like a fabulous heron. Hauled sud- den from solitude, Hair prickling on his head, Father Shawn perceived a ghost Shaping itself from that mist. 'How now,' Father

Shawn crisply addressed the ghost Wavering there, gauze-edged, smelling of woodsmoke, 'What manner of business are you on? From your blue pallor, I'd say you inhabited the frozen waste Of hell, and not the fiery part. Yet to judge by that dazzled look, That no- ble mien, perhaps you've late quitted heav- en?' In voice furred with frost, Ghost said to priest: 'Neither of those countries do I fre- quent: Earth is my haunt.' 'Come, come,' Fa- ther Shawn gave an impatient shrug, 'I don't ask you to spin some ridiculous fable Of gilded harps or gnawing fire: simply tell After your life's end, what just epilogue God ordained to follow up your days. Is it such trouble To satisfy the questions of a curious old fool?' In life, love gnawed my skin To this white bone; What love did then, love does now: Gnaws me through.' 'What love,' asked Father Shawn, 'but too great love Of flawed earth-flesh could cause this sorry pass? Some damned condition you are in: Thinking never to have left the world, you grieve As though alive, shriveling in torment thus To atone as shade for sin that lured blind man.' 'The day of doom Is not yest come. Until that time A crock of dust is my dear hom.' 'Fond phantom,' cried shocked Father Shawn, 'Can there be such stubborn- ness-- A soul grown feverish, clutching its dead body-tree Like a last storm-crossed leaf? Best get you gone To judgment in a higher court of grace. Repent, depart, be- fore God's trump-crack splits the sky.' From that pale mist Ghost swore to priest: 'There sits no higher court Than man's red heart.'

A poem by Sylvia Plath, 1956

Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Marlane Oleniacz	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig & Judy Atherton	John Spilka
Alison Jambor	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Len Pryer
Marty Bengala	Amy Dreger
Floyd & Elaine Rzonca	Frank Dominik
John Kasperczyk	Chester & Helen Budney
Chester & Ann Warzala	Hilda Grabowski
Louise Cygan	Pat Glatzer

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 Dzuroff	Howard Dicken
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
Duda Family	Fr. Sr. John Kraus
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Johanna Markiewicz	Edna Samelson
Elsa Vogl de Gomez	Wanda Heffner
Kim Blaha	John Clark Sr.
Abby Sobolewski	Geri S.
Robert Winlock	Colleen Howard
John Clark	Nancy Jablonowski
Jason Dreger	George Pofok
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Muffie B.	Dan Colwell
Shannon Alberino	Bp. Thomas Gnat
Donna Micka	Michael Regotti

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

Shirley Paulus Gene Mora
Polly Gajda
WE ALSO REMEMBER
ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN
Bless them, O Lord.