

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

July/August 2026

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On our "New Communion"

This article is much of what Fr. Jason spoke at his July 26 "mini-lesson" after Holy Mass.

I know that over the last month or so, some of you have approached me because "I changed Communion" – and...this isn't untrue!

I tried a new company from Poland for communion hosts and they are fine but are a one-time thing, I suppose. While they are the same size and thickness, you can probably tell that the structure of them is a bit flimsier, which means that when they are made Christ and your receive it, they "melt" a little easier than the other ones we had (from a brand named Cavanagh). I remind you that it is indeed a pious (but not necessary) practice to let the Eucharist melt rather than chew it.

I mention this because although the brand of the wafers changed, they certainly still meet the requirements of the Church.

There are three elements which together constitute every sacrament, and our focus on Eucharist

• **The Minister-** That's me!

For the Eucharist, the minister is a validly ordained bishop or priest, acting in Christ's name and by His authority and with serious intention for the needs of His people. I am the sole Eucharistic Minister of this parish.

In fact, the priest is always the sole Eucharistic minister of any Catholic parish.

I know you are thinking of Eucharistic ministers in the Roman Catholic Church, but this is a misnomer – They are officially titled "Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion".

This extraordinary office was created some 50+ years ago for extraordinary circumstances only to distribute Eucharist already consecrated by the proper "Eucharistic Minister"...not what it has seem to become: to "make communion go faster".

• **The Form** comprises the words which, when joined to the matter, specify it so as to convey the signification of the particular sacrament. A big definition, I know! For the Eucharist, "The Form" is: words of Consecration as found in the Eucharistic Liturgy: "This is my body which is given for you"; "This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant...."

• **The Matter** includes both the tangible material element as well as the ritual action.

The ritual action for Eucharist is eating and drinking. For baptism, for example, its moving water upon one's head.

For the matter or the "stuff" of the Eucharist this will be:

Bread – made from wheat

Wine – made from grapes



The church is a stickler about this because if the minister – me – is to take on "persona Christi", at least in moments of sacrament, then we need to prepare the Eucharist as close to as Christ did as possible.

The bread He used was basic and unleavened and from wheat.



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Opening Article (cont)

The wine Jesus used was grape-only- no hints of elderberry or orange peel – grapes. No hint of carbonation (like a Riesling). For a long times, additives were not permitted at all, but that changed in our lifetimes to be a bit safer (light preservatives). It needs to be approved sacramental wine, not just some wine at the grocery store that is “just grapes. Sacramental wine actually isn’t expensive, per se, it is just kind of difficult to find distributors. Sacramental wine needs to meet the requirements of the church.

I’ve mentioned in the past I prefer stronger wine because the entirety of my ministry, until very recently, has shared a chalice with another priest almost every Sunday. There is an 18% limit/36 proof limit on wine....for obvious reasons...but I find it

funny when sometimes, the bottle of Angelica, my preferred vintage for Mass, says 19%

With permission from their bishop, a priest can use “mustum”, an extremely-low alcohol wine made from “young grapes”, much less than 1%. Grape juice is not permitted – Jesus used wine, not Welch’s.

Like Rome, the Polish National Catholic Church has determined gluten-free hosts to be invalid

Low-gluten hosts, however, contain sufficient wheat flour and therefore are technically “bread” —these are what we have here and the level of gluten is near imperceptible.

For those on the most extreme end of celiac disease (often those at end-of-life), the Blood of Christ is sufficient for receiving

Communion. This sufficiency comes from the doctrine of Concomitance: The theological rule from the middle ages and codified in the 1500’s that Christ’s glorified body and blood cannot be separated since His resurrection, meaning whichever single element is received gives the whole Christ.

That’s it – maybe the sharpest eye has noticed if the hosts we use look bright white or a bit brown and wheaty—I often alternate which I use, and I can only purchase what is in stock. Most of us probably only saw the bright white growing up, but I do suppose the less bleach we consume, the better...

Fr. Jason

Corpus Christi

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi is one of those memorable days on the church calendar. It serves as another exclamation point to the extended Easter season; it occurs in late May or early June so it is always hot; and our congregation does its best to hold the Eucharistic procession outdoors.



On Sunday, June 7, the “Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi” was celebrated at St. Mary’s with the Eucharistic Procession to the four altars concluding Holy Mass. While it is perhaps the “longest” liturgy of the year, it is one of those that lets us stretch our legs, touch some sun, and lead the Son in procession.

Being in a commercial area like we are on Broadview Road, there are always a number of curious onlookers when we are outside. We pray that the presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist only served to heighten the faith of those who were blessed by Him.



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Men's Spiritual Retreat

The 9th Annual Bishop Stanley Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat took place June 17-20 at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center on the historic Spojnia Farm Campus. Grounded in the theme "Broken Chains" (inspired by Psalm 107:14: "God brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains"), the four-day event blended spiritual reflection, liturgical worship, fellowship, historical exploration, and patriotic celebration.

The event was attended by pastors, seminarians, men in spiritual formation, laymen, and clergy seeking incardination in the Polish National Catholic Church. This varied background of individuals led to all different types of conversations and information exchanged.

Retreat began on Wednesday evening with dinner. A dinner of pizza, wing bites, and stromboli that set the tone for the half-week that our bellies would be taken care of, leaving our spirits ripe for the molding. Andrew Humphreys (St. Adalbert-Dickson City, PA) led our first session on Wednesday evening on whether it was harder to follow Christ when He walked the earth, or is it harder to remain faithful today? His comprehensive presentation was interactive, full of polls, YouTube videos to make a point, and indeed was the first address on the demands and chains men have in their Christian lives.

After the session, our evening prayer was offered along with the exposition, benediction, and litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament, celebrated by Rev. Jim Ploskonka (All Saints-Sterling Hts., MI). The Sacrament would remain exposed for the duration of the retreat in the Eucharistic Chapel. Each full day presented required and optional time for the men to be before Jesus, present in the

Blessed Sacrament.

Our second day of retreat on Thursday featured a requiem Holy Mass for departed YMSofR members celebrated by Rev. Jim Konicki (Holy Name of Jesus-Schenectady, NY). Bishop John Mack (Bishop-Ordinary, Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese) served as homilist of this Mass, offering personal reflection on certain departed individuals as part of his words. Previous to this Mass, a video was posted on the United YMSofR Facebook page soliciting names to remember during Holy Mass. During the prayers of the faithful, more than 150 departed men were prayerfully recalled by name.

The afternoon saw the retreatants head off-site for a mix of regional culture and church history. A tour of a local coal mine was followed by an outdoor grill lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausage at McDade Park. The tour was well-received, with special mentions of the accomplished tour guide; lunch was enjoyed al fresco as well! Afterward, the group made its way to Savonarola Theological Seminary for a Rededication service, celebrated by Prime Bishop Mikovsky, alongside Rev. Konicki and Rev. Ploskonka. Mayor Paige Gebhardt Cognetti of Scranton was in attendance, echoing her joy at the rebuilding of sites in the city.

The evening concluded with a Taco Thursday dinner, diocesan times before the Blessed Sacrament, and evening prayer of the Litany of the Holy Trinity.

Our third day, Friday, had a planned patriotic purpose. We took the opportunity to celebrate America's 250th/Juneteenth as a retreat body. The morning featured a Holy Mass of America's 250th, with Very Rev. Bob



Pleczkowski (Administrative Senior-Southern Seniorate, Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese) serving as celebrant and Rev. Justin Daviault (Holy Trinity-Plantsville, CT) delivering the homily. Our prayers of intercession provided recognition for the rank and service of all veterans and active military on our retreat. Somehow, it was after lunch that a treasure chest, bound in all sorts of chains (amazingly and coincidentally fitting our theme!) was discovered and presented to the attendees, as well as a jarful of keys. Unfortunately, the keys were all duds and the chains remained bound.

After a traditional lunch of White Borscht and a build-your-own sandwich bar, attendees enjoyed an afternoon of free



Men's Spiritual Retreat (Cont)

time. 11 men went for a 9-hole golf outing; some caught up on sleep; some took personal time; some took time to meet with clergy. As night fell, the patriotic spirit took center stage at our poolside BBQ. Kabobs and cobs were on the menu, along with assorted salads.

After a relaxing dinner, the evening session was provided by Rev. Jason Soltysiak (St. Mary's- Parma, OH) titled "The Church Breaks Chains". He detailed how the church is en-wrapped with scripture in how we break chains via the sacrament of penance, focusing on the one line in the Confiteor: "in my thoughts, in my words, in what I have done or failed to do." It was after this presentation that the magical hands of Deacon Todd Godwin found the right key and unlocked the treasure chest! As the chains fell off, treasures were shared with attendees as well as a few memories from decades ago. With the joy of discovery still in the

air, the night wrapped up with a special patriotic celebration.

Saturday was our last day! After an early flag raising, the closing session, titled "Patriotism in the PNCC," was given by Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church. He provided insights into the early portion of the PNCC, how it worked against the struggles of the late 19th Century, and how language, culture, and certain practices played a larger role than we may have thought.

The spiritual climax of the retreat concluded with the Holy Mass of a Retreat, celebrated by Prime Bishop Mikovsky with a homily delivered by Rev. Jason Soltysiak. After Mass concluded, the Blessed Sacrament was taken out of perpetual adoration and

reposed by Rev. Jim Ploskonka.

Thank you to all who played a role in the planning and execution of the retreat. The retreat committee was led by Rev. Jason Soltysiak and included Rev. Jim Ploskonka, Rev. Jim Konicki, Andrew Humphreys, Nick Kazinetz, and Kevin McConlogue. Special recognition to Nick and those who volunteered retreat time to be on kitchen and clean-up crew.

This was our highest attended retreat in year 9, with 30 men spending a portion of their precious time away from the "real world" and retreating with Christ and with fellow man. Let's do it again next year for the 10th Retreat!



Sunday, June 14

9am Sunday Mass on this day featured the Solemnity of the Sacrament of the Word of God, a celebration unique to the PNCC. Here, the Scriptures were heightened with

a Gospel Procession and enthroned ceremonially afterward. Thank you to those who volunteered to be part of this portion of Holy Mass.



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Fathers' Day

Fathers' Day was celebrated with full heart on Sunday, June 21 with 9am Holy Mass. The parish was pleased to have Rev. Jim Ploskonka join us for Holy Mass.

After 9am Mass, the men (and boys) of the parish were treated to goodie bags to take home that included anything a guy would want to receive from his church on for a lazy Sunday afternoon!

Thank you to the Love of God Sodality for preparing some yummy food for all in attendance as well. May we always hold our fathers in high regard.



Lay-Led Worship

With permission from the administrator of the Western Diocese, Bob Samelson was put in charge of a lay-led worship service in the absence of a priest/deacon on Sunday, July 12. The service featured something akin to the Catholic Liturgy of the Hours for a Sunday morning, the Liturgy of the Word for that particular Sunday, intercessory prayers, and a provided reflection.

Parishioners were effusive in offering Fr. Jason reports on Bob's ability to lead. He

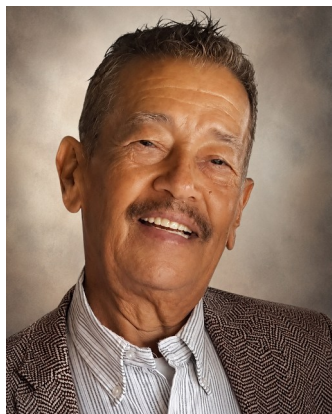
has led the lector ministry in our parish for



+Ramon Torres

Ramon Torres passed away peacefully June 11 surrounded by his family. Born on May 18, 1941, he was the beloved husband of Carmen S. Torres.

He was the devoted father of Ramon F. Torres, Brenda Torres Ingram, Raymond Torres, Nelida Halvey, Jose Cancel, Marilyn Cancel, Michael Cancel, Lourdes Cancel Foley, Wilfredo Cancel, Carlos Cancel, and Carmen Cancel Incandela, and the late Carlos Torres. He was the



proud grandfather of 19 grandchildren and great-grandfather of 25 great-grandchildren.

Ramon was preceded in death by his parents, Felix and Alicia Torres, and several siblings. He is survived by his brother, Felix Torres, and sister, Linda Valencia, along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

A retired employee of LTV Steel, Ramon was known for his strong work ethic and dedication to his family. In his free time, he enjoyed walking, dancing, listening to music, and gardening. He especially enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren.

His Funeral Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11am Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's with Fr. Jason Soltysiak as celebrant and homilist. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery on Pearl in Cleveland, and a reception was held in the parish Fellowship Hall.

Mr. Torres was impeccably dressed, often smiling, and a weekly attendee of Holy Mass, boldly choosing to sit right up front! We will miss him- May his memory be eternal!

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Baptisms at St. Mary's

Baptisms are such an incredible highlight for the spirit of a parish—they represent new life, a change of direction, and often some lively unscripted moments!

Sunday, June 28th, Maxwell was baptized in the faith after 9am Holy Mass. He is the son of Demi Bengston Paulus and Josh Bengston and grandson of Mike & Chris Paulus.

Sunday, July 5th, Kashiff Jr. was baptized within our 9am Holy Mass. When a baptism takes place within Mass, the Apostle's Creed within the baptismal liturgy is used in lieu of the Nicene Creed. The celebrant will take off the chasuble and don a purple stole for the preponderance of the liturgy, finally changing the stole to white towards its pinnacle. Holy Oils are used – first, the Oil of Catechumens, its most important use within the baptismal rite, and second, the Sacred Chrism, noting how one is set aside, ratifying the presence of the Holy Spirit, and a tangible (and wonderful smelling!) sign of God's Grace.

Fr. Jason will ceremonially cleanse his hands after the bap-

tism with lemon, salt, and bread before continuing with Holy Mass.

May God bless these families and may we be strong witnesses to the promises made by the godparents on behalf of these children.



June Mini-Class

Fr. Jason held the first of his summer mini-classes after Holy Mass on Sunday, June 28 after Holy Mass. His 10 minute presentation and answer session revolved around the scriptural and historical



words before the priest enters the Sanctuary for Holy Mass:

"Our help is in the name of the Lord"

"Who made heaven and earth"

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to

the Holy Spirit"

"As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen"

Or, "Eternal rest grant unto him/her/them O Lord"

"And let perpetual light shine upon him/her/them!"

Don't want to miss the next lesson? Then we will see you after 9am Mass Sunday, August 23rd!

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Various Announcements

CANON –Today, and for all of August, we will use the 3rd Eucharistic Prayer, the Canon of St. Basil on page 84.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH– Fellowship lunches for the parish continue! In July, 11 people ventured to the Ridgewood Golf Course property and had a meal at their newly refurbished Flamingo Clubhouse for a delicious meal. The next meal is tentatively Thursday August 20th at Michaelangelo's Winery on Broadview Rd. in Richfield, OH. All invited to attend; see Barb Bogzevitz for details.

HELP! HELP WANTED –Our last Newsletter featured the wonderful Mrs. Barb and her retirement from teaching in our SOCL. We are looking for a new teacher (or co-teacher). Please see Fr. Jason as soon as possible to begin putting a plan in place for the new school year.

SURVEY RESPONSES – In attempting to respond to the majority of the survey responses from earlier this year, we will continue monthly mini-lessons into September. Fr. Jason will then prepare an adult education class for the early autumn – one in preparation of a dedication to the Rosary as well as one surrounding some of the unquities of the Polish National Catholic Church.

YOUTH CONVO– Fr. Jason will be away

the week of August 2nd-8th to attend the 2026 PNCC Youth Convocation in Jaffery, NH. He will be leaving Sunday and returning Friday evening. This affects our weekday Mass schedule. Unsure of what the cell reception will be there, please contact parish chair Susan Boehnlein with any pressing parish matters.

PRAYER FOR SUMMERTIME – Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

MASS INTENTIONS– The schedule is filled for the remainder of 2026. Thank you, everyone, for offering these Masses for loved ones.

JESUS SAID– “I can feed 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish. To which the Disciples replied: “No Way!” Jesus: “Yahweh!”

GOLF TOURNAMENT – Due to some conflicting schedules and travel difficulties, St. Mary's will not be sending representation to the National PNCC Golf Tournament. Instead, on Saturday August 22nd, we have secured a few tee times at Seneca Golf Course on Broadview Rd. at 9am. If you are interested in golfing, please see Fr. Jason or George Bennett. Golfers and their families are invited to a bbq after the event as well – please indicate that you are interested in attending this.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION– Thank you to those who offered some time in Eucharistic Adoration from 11am to noon on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, June 12, as well as from 10:30-11:30am on the Feast of St. James the Greater, July 25. Adoration will be offered for the Month of August on Wednesday evening, August 26 from 6-7pm, immediately followed by a 7pm Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

+ KIMBERLY MATTESON– Saturday, July 25th, Fr. Jason offered a graveside service for Kimberly Matteson, daughter of parishioner Jim Matteson. We recall her soul in our prayers of intercession this day. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord; and may perpetual light shine upon her.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

Aug 2 – Karabowicz Family of. by Trish Karabowicz

Aug 9 — Gene Mora of. by daughter Cherie Kugler

Aug 16 – Carl Bogzevitz of. by son Bruce Bogzevitz

Aug 23– Thomas Petrie of. by his family

Aug 30– Dee Mora of. by daughter Cherie Kugler

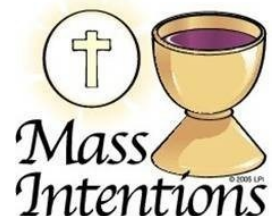
Sep 6– The Kaminski family—Adam, Alice, Alden, Mary Mae– of. by Jo Orlowski

Sep 13 — United Choirs members, past and present of. by Christine Paulus

Sep 20 – George Stepanik of. by brother Gene Stepanik

Sep 27– Florence Plocica of. by her family

What a response to scheduling Mass for *your* loved ones! We have run out of Sunday dates for intentions. Should the need arise, an intention can always be scheduled at a weekday Mass.



July/Aug. Days of Note



July Birthdays

4th – Jolanta Misiewicz
16th – Chris Paulus
21st – Father Jason
21st – Zbigniew Starnawski
22nd – Sara Long
24th – Jennifer LeMassena
25th – Martha Repede
25th – Kashiff Moore
30th – Barbara Fesz

August Birthdays

1st – Johanna Markiewicz
2nd – Kyrsten LeMassena
4th – Blake Colwell
5th – Bob Samelson
5th – Pete O'Connor
6th – John Spilka
7th – Marty DeCara
12th – Garry Patla
14th – Hannah Bilinski
14th – Sarah Ploskonka
18th – Steve Fesz
22nd – Gene Stepanik
24th – Matt Spilka
28th – Cherie Kugler



July Anniversaries

14th – John & Andrea Grmovsek
20th – Michael & Carole D'Arcy
21st – Jim & Elaine Ploskonka
24th – Jim & Pam Nemec
27th – Mike & Chris Paulus

August Anniversaries

1st – Chuck & Elaine Repede
5th – George & Roseanne Ziefle
21st – Bob & Kathy Samelson
26th – Walter & Glendene Mielcarek

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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“Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer Day?” Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee
to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely
and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake
the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease
hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot
the eye of heaven shines,
And often
is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair
sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's
changing course untrimmed.
But thy eternal summer
shall not fade
Nor lose possession
of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall death brag
thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines
to time thou grow'st,
So long as men can breathe
or eyes can see,
So long lives this,
and this gives life to thee.

• **William Shakespeare
(1554-1616)**

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Bob Kaczmarek
Bill Kastak	Gail Perz
George Makovicka	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Patrick Kmitt
Eddie Kawa	Lucy-Louise Hoegler
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Jeff Pardy	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Mike Paulus
Donna Micka	Ron Ference
Ed Pierson	George Bennett
Florence Nemkovich	Pattie Dotson
Nicole McGivern	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	David Vaden
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Michael McGivern
Jay Grabowsky	Carmen Torres
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
Pete James	Tom Pietka
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Sue Simenc
Doreen Stanley	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
Toni Colwell	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Jim Lukas
Sage McLane	Dave Tuma
Phil Repko	Shyanna Tiller
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
Laurie Slominski	Amanda Monyak
Roseanne & George Ziefle	Judy Alexin
Connie Benko	Joe Litto
Paul Smith	Diane Ellis
Kenneth Parks	John Beno
Rev. Greg Gronn	

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

