

# St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

**March 2016**

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## Take Your Time

The phrase "take your time" is a good one. It can be said in the most reassuring of ways...and it can also be used to antagonize.

More than halfway through our Lenten Journey, we should find the time to ask ourselves if we have



indeed taken the time to dwell, to meditate, to pray.

In verse 7 of the 6th Chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks about prayer: "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases like the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words."

This shouldn't discourage us to pray oft-repeated prayers— it is a simple reminder to pray with meaning, to add your thoughts and heart to them...not just reciting because "you are supposed to."

One of the para-liturgical services of the church is the Stations of the Cross. They can be a bit harsh in their content, but they are also deeply spiritual. They move us to a greater knowledge of the sacrifice of Jesus, be it from the scriptural references of the events or the prophetic bible passages that led to much of the fourteen stations.

Throughout this March issue of our Newsletter, I've peppered in pictures of our fourteen stations. Attendance at our weekly Lenten services is lacking, and although this is no substitute for that extra time we

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most certainly offer God in prayer at these, it is *something*.

I pray that they offer you a chance for some reflection. As highlighted in the write-up on the blessing of these Stations of the Cross at the beginning of Lent 2016, they are new to our parish and were prayed over and blessed for the first time at our 7pm Ash Wednesday Service.

My prayer throughout these last days of Lent is that the images of our Lord's passionate journey may move you to a place closer to him; that it may allow you to rejoice even more fully on that Day of triumph and Resurrection.



## Why Do We?

Continuing our "Questions Answered" section, this month I will address the question "Why do we have to show Christ's body on the cross?"

This is a good question, mainly because the answer still won't quell the hearts of those who don't get any increased spirituality over seeing a statue of the dead body of Jesus.

To define first, a cross with the body of Jesus on it is a *crucifix*, while one without is simply a cross.

In the second setting of the booklets the Central Diocese of the PNCC produced on *The Stations of the Cross*, the 13th Station speaks when Mary receives the body of Jesus. A very telling line is this "It has been a long time since she first held Him on that Christmas morning; then, an infant baby, now, her crucified Christ.



In this statement, amongst many, many others from scripture, we are called to understand the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. With this visual crucifix, we see the nailed hands and feet, the lanced side, the bloody crown of thorns, the sweat-and-blood spattered corpus.

*That much.* In that, Jesus Christ loves each and every one of us *that much*. Enough to suffer torture, pain, embarrassment (the sentence of crucifixion included that it be done without clothing. For reasons of modesty, this is not depicted), cruelty, betrayal, and, ultimately, death.

There are churches that don't allow the vision of the body of Jesus on the cross, such as most Protestant churches, the United Methodist Church, some Lutheran Churches. Many Christian denominations forgo the image of the cross altogether.

Some denominations stray from the crucifix to avoid the depiction of pain and focus instead on the empty, triumphed-over cross. I'm sure anyone can nod his or her head and think "that sounds just fine!" And it truly is.

For Catholics who share the Eucharist, we visibly, audibly, and bodily partake of Christ's Body and Blood every time we meet for Holy Mass. We follow on His command, we have no reservation in partaking in that same Precious Body and Sacred Blood that is shown on a crucifix in every Catholic Church.

# Lent



That image of the cross— with our without Christ's Body— is such a strong representation of our faith. I scratch my head that there are Christians today who do not condone this image.

My non-believing friends would say "well, if Jesus was executed via lethal injection, would you wear a syringe?" As a teenager, I'd say something unrepeatable and throw a jab or two at an arm or chest.

Christians should be unafraid to show their love of Savior. A cross around the neck isn't just a fashion piece; it is a display of love. And when we peer upon that crucifix, we should always be reminded of that ultimate display of love: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."





## St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

### Various Announcements

#### Lenten Cross

2016 has been assigned as a "Year of Reverence" by the Polish National Catholic Church. To aid St. Mary's spirituality and reverence this Lenten Season, the Mission Team has erected a cross in the back corner of the church. Next to it is a table with envelopes and an empty note inside. We ask you to offer your thoughts, sins, prayers, desires, hopes, faults, what you are giving up – whatever to offer God on His Son's cross. These won't be read by anyone – it is to serve as a physical reminder of your relationship with God, that whenever you walk into church and gaze upon that cross,

you'll know you have put your trust in God. They will then be burned with the New Fire on Holy Saturday as an offering to our God.

#### Sunday, March 13

There will only be one Holy Mass at 10am. Afterwards, we invite everyone to bring a covered dish to enjoy one of our famous potluck luncheons. This will serve as a short parish Lenten Retreat, with the program of the event a presentation by Fr. Jason. Please make note of the schedule change and potluck luncheon.

#### Fish Fry

St. Mary's will host one more Fish Fry during Lent, taking place Friday, March

11. Dinner options include fish and fries, fish and cabbage & noodles, fish and pierogi, while coleslaw, applesauce, roll, and dessert are included. A la carte items include fish, shrimp, pierogi, pop, and fries. We seek volunteers for baking, set up/clean up, & dinner. See George Ziefle with questions.

#### The PNU

Can Help You Use Your Tax Refund Wisely –insurance policies, Endowments, and annuities are some of the things the PNU can offer to help you and your family grow financially. Contact your PNU Branch Secretary or call the Home Office at 1-800-724-6352 for more information on ways you can use your tax refund wisely.

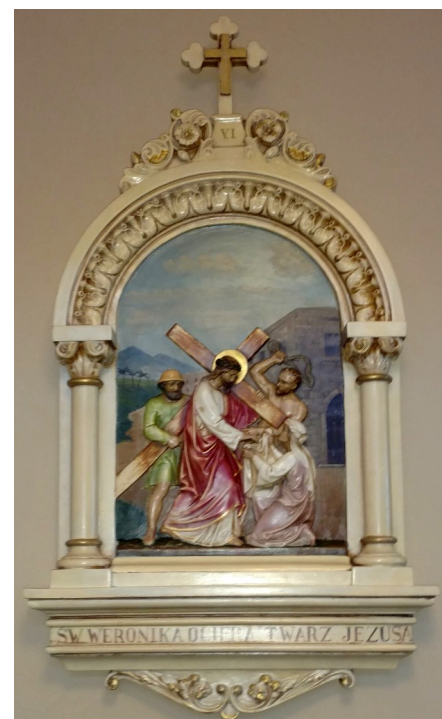
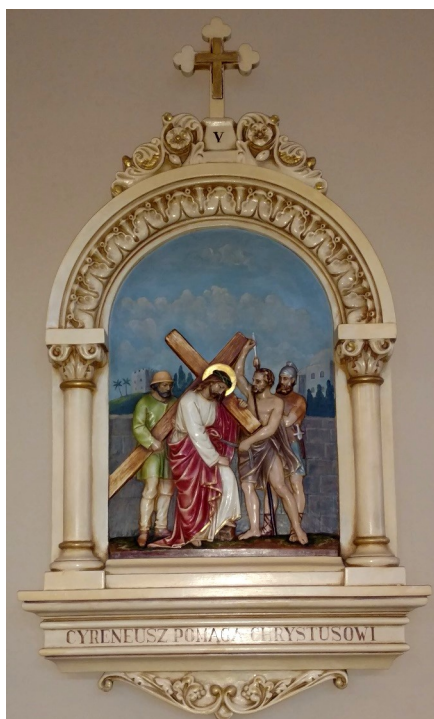
### Sp. Rev. Roman Misiewicz

Rev. Roman E. Misiewicz, 77, of Columbia, MO, passed away peacefully at home. Holy Mass and Celebration of Life is planned for June 2016, in Cleveland.

He was born March 16, 1938 in Drohobych, Poland to Marcin and Helena (nee Terlecki) Misiewicz. During the Second World War, the city was bombarded and the family was moved to Chorzow, where he

finished his schooling. He then attended theological seminary at Jagellonian University in Krakow. On June 21, 1961, he was ordained to priesthood and was a pastor in Lubliniec, Poland, where he met his wife, Jolanta. He came to the United States in August, 1970, to his first parish in the US, St. Mary's PNCC in Lublin WI and wed Jolanta in Chicago in 1971. In 1973 he was assigned to Holy Trinity PNCC in Cleveland, OH and served the parish till 2003. In that same year he transferred to St. Mary's PNCC in Parma, OH and in 2011 he celebrated his Golden Jubilee serving in God's vineyard. He retired in 2011 to be close to his grandchildren. Besides serving the Lord, he was passionate about flying, obtaining his first class pilot's license, including the Golden Wings, and flew as an instrument rated pilot. Later in his life he was interested in ham radio operations. At his US naturalization ceremony in 1976 he was asked to deliver the opening prayer to the US Legislature in Washington, DC. Also, he was a college instructor for many years, teaching computer programming at ICM School of Business and Dyke College. He served as a translator for the Berlitz School of Language, serving local Poles in Cleveland. He is

survived by his wife, Jolanta(nee Machnik). Other survivors include: two daughters, Marianne and Chris Viers, of Columbia, and Michele Barry of Cleveland; a brother, Stan and Barbara Misiewicz of Salt Lake City, nephews Tomas Misiewicz of Salt Lake City and Michael Misiewicz of Washington, DC; grandchildren Violet Viers and Hugh Viers, and step-grandchildren Jacob and Amanda Viers, Emily Viers and Jonathan Davis.



### Blessing of the Stations of the Cross

On a snowy and blustery Ash Wednesday, February 10, the new Stations of the Cross were formally blessed at a solemn service.



Father Jason, assisted by Father Greg Gronn and Chuck Repede, performed the unique service to begin our 2016 Lenten Journey.

The service opened with the Blessing of Ashes. After they were blessed, portions of the Stations needed to be blessed individually.

While Father Jason read the prayers of blessing, Father Greg went around and first blessed each image on the Stations. After this, the prayer for the blessing of the fourteen crosses was read, and Father Greg again went around to each Station, blessing with Holy Water.

Father Jason then followed

with a short homily, explaining why the Stations not only needed to be blessed, but each portion individually and then as a whole. He also spoke of the symbolism of offering *Wystawienie*/Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament to conclude the service – how it is us as 2016 Christians proclaiming Christ's death and Resurrection.

Afterward, the clergy and assistant went around and offered an intention at each Station. The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be were recited at each Station, and they were blessed with incense and Holy Water.

Many thanks to all who braved the terrible weather to officially welcome these Stations into our life of worship at St. Mary's.

### Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur

Holy Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, February 16th in the Rite of Bishop Hodur (2nd Setting

in our pew books) in memory of his passing. It was February 16, 1953 that our organizing prelate was called home to the Lord.

Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord! And let perpetual light shine upon him! *Niech spoczywa w pokoju!* Amen!





### Hygiene Kits & Prayer Blankets

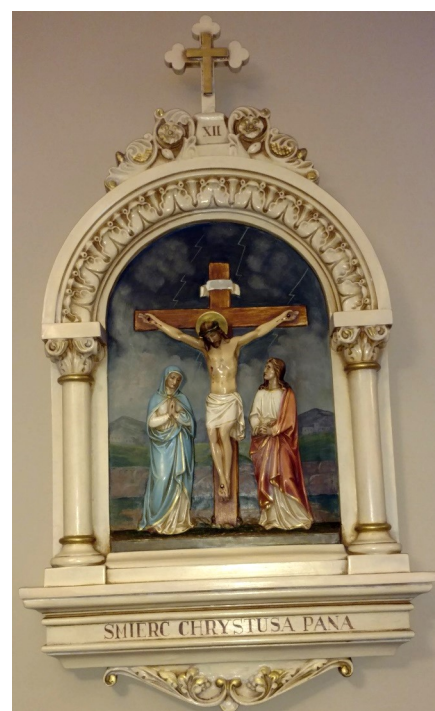
On Friday morning, February 5th, a wonderful thing happened. No, it wasn't *just* the day the Celtics beat the Cavaliers.

Something much more meaningful took place— after months of collecting, the Mission Team and friends gathered to put together 215 hygiene kits to donate to the St. Malachi Center in Cleveland.

The kits typically include a comb, toothbrush and paste, shampoo, soap, washcloth, and perhaps lotion, dental floss, or conditioner.

In addition to the kits, many other items were donated to assist the Center in their ministry to the needy of the Cleveland area.

After the kits were put together, those gathered worked in groups to put together prayer blankets. These warm and fuzzy blankets will be prayed upon when the need arises and given to any parishioners and friends in need.

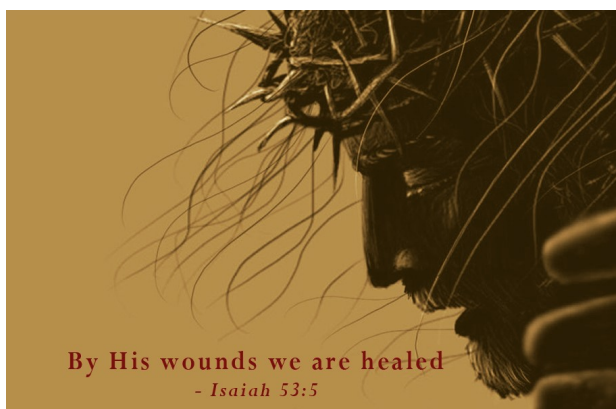




### Lenten Cross

Described earlier in this newsletter, here is a "halfway through Lent" picture of our cross, with many prayers pinned upon it already.

"He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24)



### Fish Fry #1

Our first Fish Fry of the year took place Friday, February 26 from 4-7pm.

The word was spread via facebook and our main sign on Broadview Road. Over 200 dinners were sold, quite an increase from last year. The next Fish Fry takes place Friday, March 11th.



### A few thoughts from your parish chair...



Spring is on its way! Our winter was by no means anything to complain about but I'd venture to guess most of us look forward to the fresh smell of a spring rain and the smells and beauty of bloom-

ing flowers and trees. With spring also comes the celebration of Christ's Resurrection! What a joyous time in our spiritual life. I hope all of you that are able to come to church make the opportunity to participate in our Holy Week and Easter celebrations! For those of you unable to attend, stay strong in your faith and know you are kept in the prayers of our parish. As God renews the beauty of nature let us also realize the importance of renewing ourselves both spiritually and physically.

### Happy Easter ~ *Wesołego Alleluja*

#### Fun Facts for the Month of March

Although some of these dates may have passed, here are some celebrations that take place in March, also known as National Peanut Month.

- 5<sup>th</sup> – World Spelling Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Middle Name Pride Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> – National Cereal Day
- 9<sup>th</sup> – National Crabmeat Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Plant a Flower Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Earmuff Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Learn About Butterfly Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> – In addition... Evacuation Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> – National Poultry Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> – *National Chocolate Caramel Day*  
Extraterrestrial Abductions Day  
International Day of Happiness
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – National Puppy Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> – International Waffle Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> – National Black Forest Cake Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> – I Am In Control Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> – National Bunsen Burner Day

#### Pine Tree Crosses - Author Unknown

On a relaxing Sunday afternoon in spring, my husband and I took one of our "see what we see" drives through the countryside. While my husband drove along some quiet back roads, I was pleasantly occupied watching the scenery from my front passenger seat.

As we traveled past a forested area, I noticed that my husband was straining to look out my window rather than keeping his eyes on the road in front of him. Surprised and understandably a little nervous, I asked him what he was trying to see. He softly replied, "Oh, nothing," and his focus returned to his driving.

After a few minutes, I again looked over at my husband, and I observed a tear running down his cheek. Concerned, I asked him what was wrong. This time he told me, "I was just thinking about Dad and a story he once told me."

Because my husband's father had recently passed away, I knew that sharing this story would be difficult for him; however, with a little gentle urging, he began to reflect.

"When I was about eight years old," my husband began, "Dad and I were out fishing one day, and that's when he told me that the pine trees know when it is Easter."

Having no idea what he meant, I pressed him for more information.

"Each year, the pine trees start their new growth around Easter," he continued. "If you look at the tops of the pine trees two weeks before Easter, you'll see the first yellow shoots. Then, as the days get closer, the tallest shoots branch off and form pine tree crosses for Easter. By Resurrection Sunday, most of the pine trees have small yellow crosses on all of the tallest pine shoots."

After he finished telling his story, I turned to look out the window, and I couldn't believe my eyes. It was a week before Easter, and sure

enough, the pine trees were filled with rows of tiny golden crosses outstretched to heaven.





## March Days of Note



- 7<sup>th</sup> – Bill Kastak
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Nate Ploskonka
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Linda Sobolewski
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Barb Bogzevitz
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Lauren O'Conner
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Karen Dicken
- 25<sup>th</sup> – David Adams
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Evonne Pryer
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Don Burger
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Michael Ference

## The Stations (in English)

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.*

By Ann Weems



## 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
Louise Cygan	Alison Jambor
Mary Ann Loschelder	June Zaun
Marty Bengala	Amy Dreger
John Kasperczyk	Chester & Helen Budney
Chester & Ann Warzala	Hilda Grabowski

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Colby Howard
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Oliver Kuta	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol & Chuck Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Joanel Rollen	Veronica Babic
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	Veronica Babic
Chris Minch	Nancy Jablonowski
Jason Dreger	
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski

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.

