

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2020

Pastor: Rev. Jason H. Soltysiak
frjason82@gmail.com
Cell: 216-978-6645
Office hours— Mon 10-1, Wed 12:30-3

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



Fasting

I couldn't stand the Lenten Fast when I was a kid. I went to Prospect Street Elementary, literally in the shadows of Holy Saviour PNCC in Union City, CT. No, seriously—the church was no more than 200 feet or so from my school cafeteria. I suppose I didn't have enough Catholic friends....but it really was how my family always did the little extra.

The little extra was abstaining from meat on Wednesdays during Lent as well. Even though the schools then (perhaps now, I really don't know) always offered easy, non-meat lunches on Fridays during Lent like pizza, buttered noodles, or fish, it was always the Wednesdays that got to me. I can remember gearing up for chicken nuggets or maybe the king of all



school, cafeteria meals, the turkey dinner...only to realize that before leaving the kitchen, I couldn't have meat. I'd get stuck with the alternate 1991 meal of peanut butter and jelly or something.

I could remember getting as far as sitting down to eat a hot dog one day, only to see the church above. I could remember the lunch-ladies....who all knew my mother, who worked in a cafeteria at another elementary school at that time. And, well, I was always pretty good with the whole "Fear of the Lord" thing.

I can honestly say I never cheated on a Wednesday or Friday in Lent...until my senior year of high school. But 17 year old males barely have control of themselves. In *college, I even twice did a meatless Lent*, as I kinda sorta felt like I was missing a bit too much church in those odd college days.

As Catholics, we know that abstaining for meat is only part of what Lent is about. Ash Wednesday gives us the

St. Mary's P.N.C.C
5375 Broadview Road
Parma, OH 44134

Office/Hall Phone: 216-661-9246
Email: stmarypncc@sbcglobal.net
www.stmaryspncc.org
Like us on Facebook—St. Mary's Parma OH

call to fasting, increased prayer, and increased almsgiving. The First Sunday of Lent speaks of Jesus Christ's own fasting, abstinence, and temptation over a 40 day period. But what about the third day of Lent?

Ah, the third day of Lent, Friday after Ash Wednesday. The reading assigned by the church is from the 58th chapter of the Book of the prophet Isaiah, verse 1-9a. In it, we hear prophecy on fasting...and the whole point of Jesus' Ash Wednesday Gospel of true versus false worship. There is a great back-and-forth between God and his people in this oracle- from verse 3-4: "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" "Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your work-



Fr. Jason's Article (cont)

ers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight, and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting, as you do today, will not make your voice heard on high."

God then points out that wearing sackcloth and sitting in ashes while crying aloud will not do the trick – it is when ministry is directed outward: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, to stop the oppression of people. When a fast becomes more about humanity than self, well, it is then that God takes notice. If the words of Isaiah sound pretty familiar, then you are doing pretty good! Jesus echoes

this famously when he reads this quote before his own family and friends in Nazareth...kicking off his Ministry in Galilee by getting kicked out of his hometown...and yes, being oppressed by His own.

The "growing-ever-famous" third day of Lent also gives clearance of Sundays as non-Lenten Days. Each Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection – however muted by lack of Gloria or Alleluia it might be. Many know, though, that when you count, Lent is 46 days long: the Lord's Day each week is on its own. In the gospel on this insightful third day of

Lent, we hear in its entirety (Matthew 9:14-15):

The disciples of John approached Jesus and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast much, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."

Words regarding the nature of Lent will abound throughout Lent – let some of these words here serve as a base of what is to come during our Lenten Season.

Fr. Jason

Candle & Throat Blessing

The scheduling gods smiled upon the Church, as February 2, the Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas, fell upon a Sunday.

This gave the clergy an opportunity to preach about something that often



take home...right after receiving the blessing upon their throats, which is always done at St. Mary's on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St., Blaise, February 3.

Throats are blessed with 2 candles crossed over the throats of the recipients in the name of St. Blaise. In Catholic Tradition, he once saved a dying child with a blessing, releasing a fish bone that had been lodged in his throat.



falls on a day in the middle of the week, as well as using the full liturgy of the day, which includes the Blessing and Distribution of Blessed Candles. Every Mass participant was given a blessed votive candle to



Hygiene Kit Workshop

The Mission Team at St. Mary's came together on Monday, February 3, the Feast of St. Blaise of Sebastea for 9am Mass. After Holy Mass, the Fellowship Hall was the place to be! An assortment of goods, collected and purchased over the last year,

were prepared and spread out on tables, ready to be bagged and tagged.

After a light and energetic breakfast, 123 hygiene kits were put together and donated to the Cleveland City Mission. Each kit

contained a washcloth, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, a comb, and soap. And just because we just donated doesn't mean our call for donations ends: please, we can always use the individually wrapped items listed above.



Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

The St. Mary's Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner took place from 5-7pm on Tuesday, February 25 in the downstairs hall. The meal, coordinated by parish vice-chair Steve Fesz, featured all-you-can-eat pancakes, potato pancakes, and sausage for the easy price of \$7.

presale from Michael Angelo's Bakery and pick-up on Fat Tuesday morning or at the dinner, at the same price at the bakery...but for a little profit for the parish and for a much, much shorter wait.

haps the introduction of potato pancakes, perhaps the marketing, or perhaps running an event Fat Tuesday of every year contributed to the success. We look forward to our annual tradition of partaking in these delicious, pre-Lenten Treats.

Also planned prior to this was the paczki sale, where paczki was available for

There was plenty of help all about the hall, and this year's pancake dinner was the biggest yet! Perhaps the refined nature of it, per-



Lent



Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser

Per St. Mary's Annual Meeting Fundraiser planning, we had our first Restaurant Fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse in Ridge Park Square on Tuesday, February 11 from 4-8pm. By showing the printed flyer or the flyer on your phone, St. Mary's received 10% of every bill!

We also asked our talented bakers from the parish to support us. Luckily, they came through as always and provided an assortment of traditional and European

baked goods...all which sold out during the time period. The restaurant allowed us a table right at the entrance, giving



the bake sale wonderful visibility and traffic from those there to eat....and those who were on the clock at the restaurant!

We plan on having three more events at restaurants throughout 2020 and are always looking for input and information about your favorite restaurants ability and willingness to hold such an event.

Various Announcements

SIGN OF PEACE & PRECAUTIONS

For the month of March at the very least, we will side with caution on advising our congregation to offer a subdued sign of peace, whether it be bumping fists, a vocal sign, or simple peace sign.

PIEROGI & MORE DINNER

Thank you to all who helped out at the Friday March 13th Take-Out Dinner. We were one of the only shows in town due to the health crisis, and sold out of dinners in the two hour time period.

PHC FOOD COLLECTION

St. Mary's is offering the chance at "directed Lenten denial", honoring the Lenten tradition of almsgiving by asking parishioners to offer goods that will be given to the Parma Hunger Center and distributed locally. We will do 4 weeks of collecting: March 8, 15, 22, & 29. For next Sunday, March 15, please bring some good carbohydrates: dry cereal, oatmeal, rice, pasta, granola, pancake mix. & bring them to the table in the Wexford Ave. back corner of church.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Makenzie, who began her walk with serving the Lord at His altar. We

pray for her continued journey as an acolyte in Christ's Holy Church.

LENTEN CROSS

The Mission Team is sponsoring the Lenten Prayer Cross. It has been placed in the back, parking lot side corner of the church. As the season of Lent calls for increased prayer, you may grab a card, write your intention on it, seal it in an envelope and tack it onto the standing cross – they will be offered and burned on Holy Saturday.

FRIENDSHIP TEA

The Tea is tentatively still scheduled to take place Sunday, April 26 at 1pm – please mark your calendars and see the posted flyers. It is open to anyone who would like to attend.

MISSION & EVANGELISM

The National PNCC Mission and Evangelism Workshop that was scheduled to take place at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI has been cancelled.

PICK A NUMBER!

St. Mary's is running a "Pick a Number" Fundraiser once again, to be featured in the foyer as it was last year. The fundraiser will begin in March, and each number gives you the chance to win something, as well

as doubling as a donation for the parish. Instructions are near the board & will be explained at today's meeting.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Due to the health conditions in our beloved United States, the Jesus Christ Superstar trip has been *postponed* - depending on the next few weeks will see if the event gets rescheduled or canceled.

LENTEN RETREAT

10 members of our parish attended the Lenten Retreat at Resurrection Parish in Temperance, MI this past Saturday. Thanks for all who took the time to experience this event.

WESTERN DIOCESE ANS

The Convention of the Women's Societies of the Western Diocese, scheduled to be at St. Mary's in April, has been postponed until the summer. There will be more announcements to come.

BISHOP'S CONSECRATION

The Consecration of Bp. Elect Jerry Ralfko, scheduled to take place in Scranton on April 30, has been postponed until the autumn. He will continue to serve as the diocesan administrator, with the Prime Bishop taking on episcopal rituals.

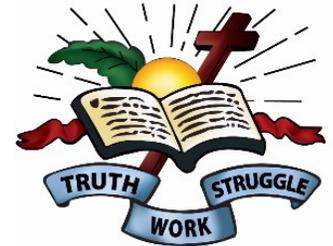
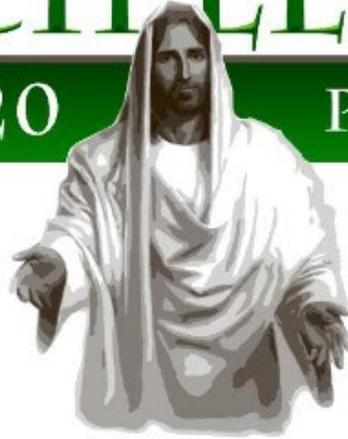
EASTER KOLACZKI

You can place your Easter Kolaczki order with the forms near the parish mailboxes.

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2020 PNCC



March 1, 2020

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

Prayerfulness and Service

DISCIPLESHIP 2020 continues to present monthly messages focused on the lives and messages of the disciples of Jesus.

March 2020 – Martha and Mary

[Click Here to watch a short video message on Simeon and Anna delivered by Fr. Antulio Alvarado](#)

[Click Here to watch a short video message on Prayerfulness and Service delivered by Cathy Bilinski](#)

Scriptures for Reflection

Luke 10:38-42 & John 11:1-45

Questions for Reflection:

- Martha and Mary together give us a balanced model of the aspects of our discipleship. Do you have this same balance of prayer and service in your daily life? What can you do to achieve it?
- How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously?
- Name a few important "discipleship qualities" that Martha and Mary demonstrate?
- Which one would you personally like to better emulate?
- How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?



PNCC Future Direction is also 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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Words from crosswalk.com

A Prayer for Those Who Are Ill with Coronavirus

Father God,

You are the ultimate Healer. Father, we come before You to pray for those infected with this virus. We pray for not only their healing, but for them to be comforted while they heal. Lord, please eradicate every ounce of this virus from their bodies. Please heal every cell in their bodies, every infected part of their being. We pray for no lasting effects in their bodies from this illness. Father, please heal them inside and out and provide them with the medical care they need, with the medications they need, and with the healing not only physically but spiritually so that they may live life and life abundantly ahead.

In Jesus' name, Amen

A Prayer for Those Who Are Worried about the Spread of the Coronavirus

Father,

Worry and fear are not of Your heart. [1 John 4](#) reminds us that perfect love casts out all fear, and we pray Your perfect love upon the hearts of all those who are burdened with fear of this virus. Lord, we know with no doubt that You are bigger than the threat of anything, especially illnesses. Please comfort those who are living in fear, please free them from the bondage that anxiety creates within. Remind them that You are still on the Throne and that You are still in control. Fully rain down the serenity that comes only from the Prince of Peace. Help those who are living in unease to trust You in this time so that in times to come we may rest assured that You will be faithful to be with us until the end of age. We rest at the Throne of the Almighty such fears and cast them upon You ([1 Peter 5:7](#)), for Your burden is Light and Your Yoke is easy ([Matthew 11:30](#)), we know You cover us with Your wings ([Psalm 91:4](#)).

In Jesus' name, Amen

A Prayer for Those Treating the Sick

Father,

We come to pray for those who are caring for the sick. It takes a kind and selfless heart to care for those who are sick, and so Father we pray for them. We pray that You would be their source of rest, their source of replenishment when weary, and their source of hope in such overwhelming times. Lord we know in [Luke 6:38](#) that whosoever pours out shall be given back in proportion, so we pray blessings upon these caregivers. We also pray for their health that they may not fall ill. Father protect them with a hedge of protection against the germs of coronavirus and help those who are giving to be protected as they nurse others back to health. Bless them, oh Lord.

In Jesus' name, Amen

March Days of Note

March Birthdays



7 th	– Bill Kastak
7 th	– Nate Ploskonka
17 th	– Linda Sobolewski
18 th	– Barb Bogzevitz
18 th	– Lauren O'Conner
19 th	– Karen Dicken
25 th	– David Adams
26 th	– Evonne Pryer
27 th	– Don Burger
29 th	– Amanda Ploskonka

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

"Good Friday"

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ,
beneath Thy cross,

To number drop by drop
Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief
lamented Thee;

Not so fallen Peter
weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;
Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces
in a starless sky,

A horror of great darkness
at broad noon –
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep,
true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses,
turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

Christina Rossetti, 1862

Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org
Or like St. Mary's in
Parma, OH on Facebook

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

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	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Helen Budney	David Micka
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	John Radon
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Sharon Seitz
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Linda Marks	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Rhonda Smith
Rose Neyman	Carol Boesck
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Tom Slomka
Gerri S.	Ben Soltesy
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuoroff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Rose Petrosky
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Mary Cawley
Richard & Edna Samelson	Jim Giles
Wanda Heffner	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Anthony Grad	Azriel G.
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Barb Lucas
George & Linda Makovicka	Julie L.
Kelly B	Barbara B.
Michael McGivern	Sylvia Kowalski
Daniel Morgan	Emma Freshwater
Kim Penney	Tammy Teubl
Baby Layla	Carol Hreha

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