

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

June 2015

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One of the strange things about growing up as “the son of a preacher man” is that I had access to certain events and experiences that very few else would. Most of them good, some not-so-good...but memorable nonetheless.

In my bedroom at the rectory at 73 Main St. in Westfield, MA, I faced the church's bell tower. At noon, three, and 6pm every day, those chimes would go off with whatever chime-y songs were plugged in to that old massive tape deck.

As an altar server, I learned how to use that monstrosity— it had “Swinging Peal” for the beginning of Mass, “Funeral Toll”, which had to be manually switched on and off (but never mid-toll! That would result in pretty much the worst noise ever) and then the requisite Marian chimes, patriotic, Christmas, Easter, Lent, etc.

Being a downtown church with some

moderate foot traffic, it was always neat how people would occasionally stop their jaunt and just listen to the chimes...especially the Patriotic ones.

See, the old man priest there would plug in “Patriotic” near Memorial Day and leave it to July 4th. This converges with the best New England weather of the year...and I may vaguely remember as a young teenager being awoken by “God Bless America” at noon on a lazy summer, school's out for the summer, kind of day.

Patriotic Hymns are neat—they can really stir the heart when the heart is open to it. Oftentimes, it is when the tensions of a nation are stretched tightly when those Patriotic words and the sight of that flag cause the room to get a bit dusty.

Inside this newsletter, you'll see a few pictures of how we celebrated Memorial Day as a parish. We ventured a few blocks over to the Sacred Heart Cemetery, and as we prayed, we remembered the valiant. We sang the National Anthem. We prayed for the dead and blessed each and every grave at

that cemetery. The graves of those who served our nation are blessed because of the significance of the holiday. All other graves are blessed because they are the people these service men and women gave their lives to protect.

I'm kind of a sap, so these moments and prayers always catch me a bit. Especially when you see the veterans of the various branches of our military honor their fallen brothers and sisters. It can be emotional, it can cause any American's heart to swell with pride and thanksgiving.

We closed our service with a patriotic hymn- “My Country 'Tis of Thee”. It was great, and those gathered really belted it out. It brought me back to a get-together of clergy from mixed faiths and I recall being maybe 25 and having these religious leaders say they would never have a patriotic song in their place of worship. “Why promote war even more?” was a repeated comment.

As a 25-year-old kid, I kept my mouth shut. Years later, I can only think “Your loss.”

Fr. Jason

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Polish Constitution Day Parade

On Sunday, May 3, a group of St. Mary's parishioners and friends gathered at the Parma Circle to participate in the Polish Constitution Day.

We have been participating in this parade for a number of years now. We had a larger group compared to some other churches, and, as you can see, we were joined eagerly by our canine friends.

This year, Fr. Jason had an opportunity to pray the benediction to conclude the program. This included a welcome that was penned by parishioners Len Pryer and Josephine Ference, which garnered some applause.

A big thank you to everyone who made sure our parish was so well-represented at this year's parade.



May Devotions

May Devotions were celebrated every Wednesday in May. We celebrated our patroness through prayer, song, chant, and litany.

Alternating each week from the Polish to the English language, each service included a short Eucharistic procession to St. Mary's

Altar, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, and the traditional antiphon, "Pod Twoja Obrone/ Under Thy Protection."

Many thanks to all who honored our Mother Mary and who prayed through her to Almighty God during our liturgies.



Memorial Day

Services for Memorial Day were held at the Sacred Heart Cemetery on Monday, May 25th at 10am.

The service was led by Father Greg Gronn, who is appointed by the Western Diocese of the PNCC as the overseer of the cemetery. Fr. Jason preached a short sermon and Chuck Repede assisted as well.

During the service, we recalled the lives lost in service to our

country, praying for their souls in English and in Polish. A crowd of around 60 people came to honor the fallen this day with us.

We were blessed with a beautiful day that sprinkled a faint mist during our prayer. The honor guard participated as well, marching to the cemetery and participating in prayer.

A new flag pole was blessed by Father Gronn as well. This pole was donated by St. Mary's mem-

ber Greg Hodor and will fly the Polish Flag opposite the flag of the United States. After the blessing, the telescopic flag was raised and flown properly, a few feet shorter than the Stars & Stripes.



SOCL Closing and Graduates Honored

On Sunday, May 17, the 7th Sunday of the Easter Season, we had our closing of the 2014-2015 SOCL year of study as well as honoring our graduates.

Unfortunately, our turnout wasn't the best for the SOCL classes this year. It is our utmost prayer that we see an increase in enrollment as well as an increase of parents bringing them to church for this important development in the life of any Christian.

We didn't have any photos from our SOCL presentations. However, we give great thanks to our teachers: Susan Boehnlein, Amy Dreger, and Evonne Pryer, as well as our Superintendent Barb Bogzevitz.

Following are the write-ups for our two graduates.

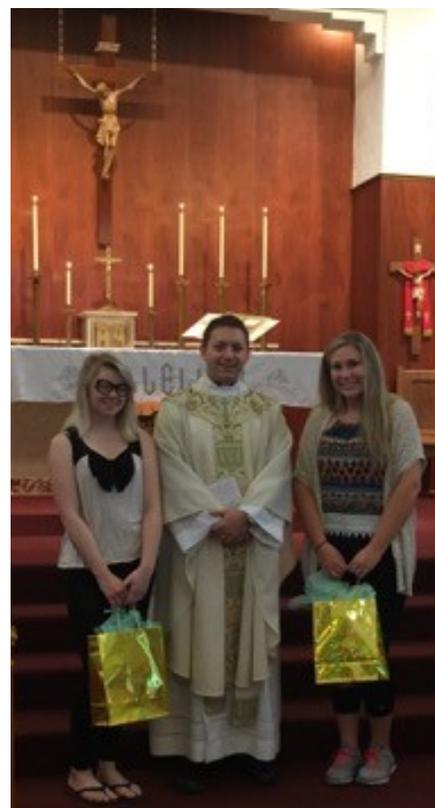
Sara Rachel Long, daughter of Jo Ann Long (Piniecki), was born in Chicago, IL and raised in Ohio. She is 17 and will be graduating from Parma Senior High School this June. Sara is an Honor roll student carrying a 3.0 and has aspirations of attending Tri-C while working part-time. Although Sara is uncertain of

her future desires she does possess a good balance of logic and creativity. Sara has been attending St. Mary's PNCC for the past 5 years participating in Church activities such as; pierogi making, kielbasa making, Polish Constitution Day parade, Convo's, Church dinners and other Church Fund Raising events. Sara accepted Christ into her heart in the 8th grade, most recently Sara has been Baptized by Fr. Jason and has received her First Communion.

Jessica Moritz will graduate from Avon High School on May 30th with an Honor's diploma. Outside of classes she played on the Avon Lady Eagles soccer team for four years. She also played violin in the High School Philharmonic Orchestra. Jessica will be attending Bowling

Green State University in the fall where she was accepted into the Honor's College.

She will study in the College of Business for her undergraduate degree, specializing in Business Analytics and Intelligence. She also plans to minor in Political Science. Jessica's long term goal is to attend Law School and eventually practice corporate law. Jessica is the daughter of Pete & Debbie Moritz and the granddaughter of Bill & Joan Kastak.



Solemnity of Pentecost

For those who were unable to be with us this past May 24 for that holy day of Pentecost, take a gander as to what our Sanctuary looked like, as we adorned it in red, recognizing the Seven Gifts and the Fire of the Holy Spirit. "Holy Spirit, come to us! Fill us with your gift of Grace!"



Various Announcements

PolishFest

The PolishFest is quickly approaching. A meeting takes place June 14 regarding the event. The festival takes place July 9,10,11, & 12 on our parish grounds. We need as much help as can be offered in making this event a success. There will be rides again, with a more local company providing a higher-quality ride. Posters are available in the Board Room for anyone who has a business or public place to properly display them.

100th Anniversary Planning

A meeting will be held on Sunday, June 28 between Holy Masses with an update concerning our progress

as we work towards our big day.

Rummage Sale

The parish rummage sale has been postponed until late summer. Please speak to Jo Ann Long to arrange any item drop-offs in the interim.

Youth Events

The Polish National Catholic Church and the Western Diocese are providing two avenues for children to spiritually retreat this summer: The Kurs encampment at Spojnia Farm from July 4-11 and the Western Diocesan Youth Retreat at the Michindoh Conference Center in Hillsdale, MI from July 27-30. Please speak to Fr. Jason if your child is interested in attending

these events. Grants are available to defray the cost of attendance.

Bible Study

A new Bible Study has kicked off. We have begun to dig into St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. Our study takes place the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6pm (see our calendar). We begin with soup, bread, dessert, and fellowship and conclude with our hour-or –so long study. We are always open to having new attendees—parishioners or otherwise.

St. Mary's at the Bowling Tournament

The United YMSofR Bowling Tournament took place this year in the Buffalo, NY area, hosted by Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY. The Cathedral hosts every fifth year.

Our parish bowling was very well-represented, as the majority of our Sunday league made the trip to upstate NY.

Bowling began on Friday at noon, featuring 3 games of singles and 3 games of doubles.

Wake-up came early on Friday, as the team bowling event began at 9am. This year was the first to feature an all-bishops team, and they all had matching purple shirts.

Our league fared well at the awards ceremony and banquet on Saturday night. We featured the top women's bowler, top men's bowler, and a few other various awards.

The event concluded with Holy Mass on Sunday morning at the Cathedral. Fr. Jason was blessed to serve at the altar. Following a quiche and etcetera breakfast, we were able to return to our homes.

See everyone next year back in the Detroit area!



June Days of Note



- 2nd – Jordan Michalczyk
- 2nd – Nicole Michalczyk
- 6th – Bridgette Dotson
- 10th – Megan Knapp
- 12th – Madi Ference
- 13th – Gerald Beres
- 14th – Laura Samelson
- 27th – June Zaun
- 27th – Jeanette Ols



Happy Anniversary

- 28th — Adolph Jr. & Teresa Kasperczyk
- 27th — Bruce & Barbara Bogzevitz

Corpus Christi Sequence

Laud, O Zion, your salvation, Laud with hymns of exultation, Christ, your King and Shepherd true. Bring Him all the praise you know, He is more than you bestow, Never can you reach His due. Special theme for glad thanksgiving, Is the quick'ning and the living, Bread today before you set: From His hands of old partaken, As we know by faith unshaken, Where the Twelve at supper met. Full and clear ring out your chanting, Joy nor sweetest grace be wanting, From your heart let praises burst: For today the feast is holden, When the institution olden, Of that supper was rehearsed. Here the new law's new oblation, By the new King's revelation, Ends the form of ancient rite: Now the new the old effaces, Truth away the shadow chases, Light dispels the gloom of night. What He did at supper seated, Christ ordained to be repeated, His memorial ne'er to cease: And His rule for guidance

taking, Bread and wine we hallow, making; Thus our sacrifice of peace. This the truth each Christian learns, Bread into His flesh He turns, To His precious Blood the wine: Sight has fail'd nor thought conceives, But a dauntless faith believes, Resting on a pow'r divine. Here beneath these signs are hidden, Priceless things to sense forbidden; Signs, not things are all we see: Blood is poured and flesh is broken, Yet in either wondrous token, Christ entire we know to be. Whoso of this food partakes, Does not rend the Lord nor breaks; Christ is whole to all that taste: Thousands are, as one, receivers, One, as thousands of believers, Eats of Him Who cannot waste. Bad and good the feast are sharing, Of what diverse dooms preparing, Endless death, or endless life. Life to these, to those damnation, See how like participation, Is with unlike issues rife. When the sacrament is broken, Doubt not, but believe 'tis spoken, That each sever'd outward token, Doth the very whole contain. Naught the precious gift divides, Breaking but the sign betides, Jesus still the same abides, Still unbroken does remain. Lo! The angel's food is given, To the pilgrim who has striven; See the children's bread from heaven, Which on dogs may not be spent. Truth the ancient types fulfilling, Isaac bound, a victim willing, Paschal Lamb, its life-blood spilling, Manna to the fathers sent. Very Bread, Good Shepherd, tend us, Jesus, of Your love befriend us, You refresh us, You defend us, Your eternal goodness send us, In the land of life to see. You Who all things can and know, Who on earth such food bestow, Grant us with Your saints, though low, Where the heav'nly feast You show, Fellow heirs and guests to be.

Our Prayer List

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 | Edward Basiewicz |
| Mary Ann Loschelder | June Zaun |
| Alison Jambor | Laura Samelson |

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 | Jack Amburgey, Jr. |
| Bryson Dzuroff | George Beggin |
| 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 |
| Gina Crosetti | Madilyn Perry |
| Elsa Vogl de Gomez | Joyce Dicken |
| Kim Blaha | John Clark Sr. |
| Tom Bowen | Greg Soucie |
| Robert Winlock | Veronica Babic |

Those in nursing homes or assisted living:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Shirley Paulus | Tony Mudrak |
| Gene Mora | Ted Jurczyk |
| | Polly Gajda |

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

