

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

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

September 2018

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## Kocham Cie

I don't do this too much, but I wanted to include a portion of my sermon from the Feast of Brotherly Love as my article— First, see a quick explanation below of the 8 ways ancient Greeks defined the word "love."

**philia**-brotherly, no previous connection  
**storge**-familiar, from youth-on-up  
**eros**-romantic, sexual, desirable  
**agape**-divine  
**philautia**-of self from vain to self-respect  
**pragma**-enduring, developed, "old"  
**mania**-obsessive...bordering negative  
**ludus**—playful love...like, a crush

On the 2nd Sunday of September, the Polish National Catholic Church celebrates a feast day unique to this church, this denomination, where we celebrate brotherly love...Philia love, as the original Greek would have it.

It's important to differentiate the different types of love that exist, as well as how Jesus Christ addressed them during his ministry. There are eight different words for love in the ancient Greek language...which



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it is about respect for humanity. It is considered the highest form of love to the Ancient Greeks, as, unlike the others, may have no ties of physical attraction, blood relation, or relationship proximity. To show philia love for someone else was...and, lets not be crazy here, still is...a high-water mark for a person.

It's hard. It is difficult for a culture who has now, for the last 50 years, been raised on campaigns to never talk to or trust strangers. But Jesus teaches different, and if there is one thing we know as God-fearing, and God-loving (if you are scoring at home, that one is *agape*)...people it's that we know the Gospel is forever - its truths are enduring, and its power is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

The Good Samaritan Gospel (Luke 10:25-37) gives us a glimpse into the political and ethnic differences of new first millennium Israel. Nearly everyone was of the same Jewish faith, but it was a Jewish faith that was being interpreted in a million ways....with little source of entertainment, hearing a guy's take on the Jewish faith was like visiting Cleveland's Playhouse Square for a show or...better yet, catching a Friday night Indians game, replete with fireworks to end the evening.

The fireworks in today's Gospel come from the way Jesus taught the Jews how to show their Philia love - by helping someone without questioning the cost, which was extremely difficult in a society under occupation by the tax-heavy Roman Empire - they never knew when the next tax was coming, nor did they know when the collector or accompanying soldiers were being truthful.

truly makes sense. Think about it - the way we love our engaged spouse-to-be is different than the way we love our spouse of 50 years and is different than the way we love our children and is different than the way we love our friends, our God, our pets, our high school crush, the way we look on a good hair day.

My point is, the English language is robbing us a bit when it comes to how we express ourselves. We men wouldn't have the issue of "not being macho" if the word "I-o-v-e" wasn't so all-encompassing in this language. So, the two words I want to focus on are "philia", which means that brotherly love or a deep affectionate respect, and "storge", which would be love through deep familiarity.

Storge is that type that comes from knowing someone for *your* forever. This is a good and bad thing, the way the Greeks saw it - it was good because it had the ability to persevere beyond a long separation of time, or even between long periods of not seeing each other. It could be bad, however, if your philosophies and beliefs clashed, but you didn't want to ruin what was once a good thing because of that strong, old familiarity - it could be something that affects the spirit.

I'm sure that sounds somewhat familiar and resonates with anyone who has attended a family reunion. Now, that philia love - like that city of brotherly love, Philadelphia, is about your neighbor. It is about community, it is about fairness, and

## Fr. Jason's Article (Cont)

Besides helping without cost, Jesus teaches that the person doing the helping would be someone who has, in Jew's interpretation, knowingly and willfully turned their back on the Israelite culture.

A Samaritan was someone who, after the biblical and historical destruction of Jerusalem and Babylonian captivity, never returned, choosing a different way of life, which included condoning marrying people who didn't share their pure Jewish blood - maybe something seen as sinful in America not even 50 or so years ago. Of course, DNA testing

has led to a lot of ethnic cover-ups in a majority of family's pasts...as God, most likely, chuckles in Heaven.

The lesson in everything we hear today, of course, is that we must echo the Two perfect commandments of Christ - to love God and to love our neighbor...that all 8 versions of the "L" word will fall under those two laws. In his teaching, Jesus even gets the lawyer to admit that the one he had disdain for, the Samaritan, was the one in the story showing compassion, philia love. Again, a lawyer's job at that point was often offering his own beneficial take on Jewish law. Notice how the lawyer wouldn't even

let the dreaded "Samaritan" word cross his lips.

In our second reading, the 1st Letter of John, we get to the "why" in everything - we can't say we love God unless we love what he has set forth before us - the perfection of his creation, humanity. John says "One who has no love for his brother he has seen cannot love the God he has not seen."

The call of the Church in holding this Feast Day is that we be aware of that philia - that deep respect we must have for God's Creation around us. Fr. Jason

## 9th Annual Dinner and a Car Show



The 9th Annual St. Mary's Dinner and a Car Show took place on Saturday, August 4, 2018 on the grounds of St. Mary's Parish.

The event ran from 4pm-8pm...but you never would've known if you drove by. Cars were on the premises by mid-morning, as the day was ab-

solutely perfect for a show.

The show was a booming success! The vast majority of spaces were taken by classic cars and everyone was happy to be at St. Mary's....and the food definitely did not disappoint.

In fact, our kitchen leader, Chris Paulus mentioned that although it wasn't the year with the most people, it was the year people

ate the most—food was running out by about 6pm, causing some creative scrambling to take place.



## Car Show (Cont)

Many thanks to our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair of the parish, Steve Fesz (and family) for organizing and running this event for our parish, as well as to all who volunteered or patronized this event. Steve and family have been running this

event since its inception and are already well-planned heading to the event's 10th year in 2019.



## Various Announcements

### Bowling League

Begins 9/16, taking place at Red Circle Lanes on State Rd. This league is open to all level of bowlers—even someone who rolls in the 60's is a huge help to a team, as all scores are set to an average. If anyone is interested in bowling this year, please contact Elaine Ploskonka.

### Sunday School/SOCL

School of Christian Living (Sunday School) begins Sept. 23. Please plan on having your child be a part of this critical spiritual development that we offer here at St. Mary's.

### Children's Polish Folk Tales

TALESPINNER CHILDREN'S THEATRE will perform a play based on a Polish folktale on September 26th at the Snow Road Parma Library. We hope your families will be interested!  
<https://tinyurl.com/TalespinnerParma>

### Blood Drive

It is that time again – there is another Blood Drive at Parma Lutheran Church on Sunday September 23 from 9am until noon.

### Spojnia Sunday

Spojnia Sunday takes place on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will keep the members and the works of Spojnia and the Polish National Union in our prayers during Mass. In conjunction, the PNU is sponsoring a photo contest for Spojnia families – All a family needs to do is send in a family photo! Info is posted on the bulletin board.

### Thank You!

To everyone who lent a hand during our PolishFest. Preliminary numbers are just coming in, and we will update in the weekly bulletin (always available online). Obviously, the weather kept not only the public away, but our own parishioners,

which is always disheartening. As a parish, we have some work to do to make up some of the funds that we've miss out on – please: be supportive of the endeavors we offer in the next months. A formal write up with pictures will be in the next newsletter

### Synod Information

The 25<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the PNCC takes place October 1-3 near St. Louis, MO. As travel is long, there will be only one Mass at 9am on Sunday, September 30. The following Sunday, we will hold an informational meeting between Holy Masses to provide the happenings of the Synod and how St. Mary's is affected by them.

### Pet Blessing

The Blessing of Animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi takes place 6:30pm on Thursday, October 4. Please bring any and all animals to the parking lot of the church in order for them to receive a blessing and a doggy bag (or kitty bag) of treats. Those without pets are also welcome to attend this service of prayer.

### PNCC Future Directions Update

September 1, 2018

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

**Sharing Our Gifts at Home and in the Parish** - By Fr. Scott and Shelley Lill

*"Now there are different gifts but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of work, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone."* ~1 Corinthians 12: 4-6



While St. Paul was speaking primarily of spiritual gifts in the passage above, the same can really be said about the unique and personal talents that God gives to each one of us. While every person has unique abilities with which the Lord has gifted him or her, they are all granted for a common purpose: to use them for everyone's good. Sometimes we may be tempted to use our special gifts only for our own benefit, but we know that this would not be pleasing to the Lord who gave them to us. Instead, we are all called to selflessly apply these talents throughout all the areas of our everyday lives, and are reminded that when we do so, wonderful things happen.

First, we actively express our thanks to the One who so generously bestowed such gifts upon us. To use them selfishly or, perhaps worse, to neglect using them at all, would be very ungrateful. When we use them, we are thanking God for our own special talents.

Second, whenever we use our gifts and talents to help others we are actually serving as co-workers with God whose work of sustaining and renewing creation in Christ continues in a wonderful way *through us*. In this way, the Holy Spirit is active in the world and we are his instruments.

Finally, putting our special gifts into good use leads to our receiving the wonderful fruits of the Holy Spirit among which are "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Overall, whenever we generously use the special gifts that we have received from God, we are helping Him transform the still-fallen world, a little bit at a time, while we ourselves are also changed for the better. We become more holy, which also means we become happier because we are more fully becoming the people He made us to be.

Before we can ever really use these gifts, however, we first need to discern them and then begin to hone them. All of this begins at home within the family. Parents should pray with their children, from a very early age, teaching them to continually ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to them their own unique abilities and how He wants them to use these talents. Many times, adults ask children, "what do you want to be when you grow up?" For us as Christians, however, the question should really be this: "what do you think God wants you to be when you grow up?" Prayerfully helping them begin recognizing their own giftedness and wondering why God may have given them such abilities is a first way by which parents help their children discern their lives' vocations. This is really a life-long process that begins slowly in childhood, gradually flowers over time as children mature and develop within the family as each gift revealed by God at just the right moment in accord with his plan.

Once personal gifts are acknowledged, even if only partially at first, parents can lead their children in giving thanks to God for such talents and immediately start to encourage them to accept them with gratitude. This really means *inspiring them to start using them*. Parents can have creative conversations with their children to guide them—but not dictate to them—to some particular ways to use them within the home for the whole family's benefit. This is a great way for children to not only recognize but start to polish their gifts and perfect their talents, while beginning to see the positive impact they can have in the lives of others and starting to experience the great joy that comes from this. Then, with a special contributing role initiated within the family, these unique skills can naturally be extended and put to good use in the life of the parish family. Here are just a few practical examples to demonstrate this:

*In a family with a younger child who may exhibit a talent for singing and who really seems to enjoy it, the parents can help him or her realize this and then gently nudge them toward sharing it with everyone else, by giving them the honor of leading carols at the family's Christmas Eve Wigilia. Over time, encouraged by the other family members' recognition of their special talent and growing in their self-confidence, this gift can eventually be shared in the parish as a member of the youth or adult choirs or even as a cantor.*

*With a child who may be a bit older and who demonstrates an artistic ability, parents can help him or her recognize this and start to use it, perhaps by drawing pictures to cheer up members of the family who are ill. As the talent is honed and the child personally sees the benefits of sharing it, they can be asked to help make seasonal decorations for S.O.C.L. bulletin boards or crafting homemade cards for the parish's shut-ins.*

*Should a family have a (pre)teenager who demonstrates a blossoming talent for leadership or emerging organizational skills, mom and dad can celebrate this as a gift from God and ask him or her to assist in getting younger siblings ready for school by organizing back packs or packing lunches. As this ability matures, they could then assume officer roles in the parish's youth association, help as S.O.C.L. assistants, or lend a much-needed hand in organizing the parish's book cases or office space.*

There are as many opportunities as there are children and gifts. As should be clear by now, however, *the role of the parents is of paramount importance*. Far be it from them to ever discourage their children from using their special talents, parents are the first and endur-

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PNCC Future Directions Update (continued)

ing source of grateful self-confidence for their children. They are entrusted by God with the weighty and yet joyful duty of guiding them to clearly recognize, diligently develop and begin to use their unique abilities to His glory and for the benefit of others. While this starts at home and then naturally moves into the parish, their endeavors will eventually start to bear fruit throughout every aspect of their lives, as the Lord works with them and through them in ways previously unimagined.

The greatest and most important way that parents can fulfill this responsibility, though, is by *setting a good example for their children*. They themselves must constantly look for as-yet uncovered gifts that God has bestowed upon them, never being afraid to learn something new or to practice unmastered skills, and *to share their own gifts with the family at home and in the parish family*. While moms and dads *could* simply remind their children to pray for guidance in this every day, it's far better when the whole family prays *together* in this way. The whole family—parents and children—together all asking the Lord of Glory, the Giver of all good gifts, to show them *all* exactly how they should use their special talents serve Him and his people that day. As we continue our journey in this Polish National Catholic Year of the Family, this would be a great spiritual practice for each family to embrace. It would engender within us all a deeper, more humble gratitude to the Lord for the abundant talents with which we are all uniquely graced, and remind us that we are all commissioned to use these gifts to praise their Giver by generously serving his people everywhere.

### The Synod of our Holy Church is one month away – let us pray for this Holy Gathering.

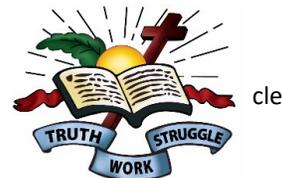
Let us pray... Heavenly Father, Grant us Your grace and blessing, as we prepare to gather together in Holy Synod to seek the Lord Jesus through Your Holy Church. Send Your Holy Spirit upon our Holy Church, that we may be guided by Your Holy Will. Strengthen our bishops, clergy and laity who will gather so that their decisions at Holy Synod may help lead others to Your Son Jesus Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church. We are encouraging all our parishes to please keep in your prayers our upcoming Holy Synod now just one month away. In preparation for our Holy Synod we are asking for you to share with our committee pictures and testimonials from successes that you have experienced as you implemented the future direction over these past four years. Please email them to [FutureDirection@pncc.org](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) We hope you share the gifts God has given you for the good of your family, parish and our Holy Church. Have a blessed first month of fall.

September 14, 2018

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

The Future Direction committee is sharing with you an article written by Bishop John Mack for his diocesan newsletter ACTS about the upcoming General Synod. Thank you Bishop Mack for allowing us to share this article as the Church prepares for Holy Synod.



### The 25th General Synod – Standing at the Crossroads

I have decided to devote the lead article of this issue of ACTS to the upcoming Synod. Synod is just a few short days away as of this posting. Where did the four years go since our diocese hosted the last general synod at that beautiful location in Erie, PA on the waterfront? I came home feeling that we had really accomplished something. Almost a full day's time was allotted for small-group input and discussion. Results were tabulated quickly and reported back to the constituency. Groundwork was laid out for inspired programs of parish reactivation. A "future directions" sub-committee was formed in order to give guidance and expertise to parishes looking to reinvigorate their parishes in mission & outreach. A yearly plan was developed along with month-by-month action items to accomplish. I do hope and pray that their efforts brought forth good fruit in the parishes of our diocese. I always commend our parishes, their pastors and faithful in the fact that this is "nothing new" to their outreach and ministry on the local level in most instances. We can always glean a fresh new idea or two to implement however, and hopefully this has occurred.

The stark reality on the national level however, is that some parishes have done nothing with the tools and guidance that have been offered. This is especially frustrating to those who comprise that sub-committee and put forth an enormous amount of time and effort into making it happen. I have heard (through reliable sources) that people in some parishes have simply asked: "When is your committee going to come and do this for us, so that we can increase our membership?" That statement is so spiritually mind-boggling that I cannot even begin to address it. What I would like to offer is a bit of a stroll down memory lane in the PNCC. We can't know where we want to go unless we know where we have been.

Most people in the PNCC usually possess a rudimentary knowledge of the reasons that the PNCC came into existence. Fr. Hodur had gone to Rome to present the tenets of the "National Church Program" to the authorities. Among these were: 1 – legal ownership of property by the local parish 2- parish governance by parish committees elected by parishioners 3 – appointment of pastorates of priests approved by the Parishioners 4- appointment of Polish bishops by priests and parishioners, subject to confirmation by the Pope. It should be noted that Fr. Hodur did not intend to break away from the Roman Catholic Church. And so, as they say, the rest is history. Fr. Hodur was told to go back to America and submit to the authorities or face exclusion.

I have two questions to pose. Are the reasons the PNCC came into existence still pertinent today and secondly, what have we as a church done to continue the vision and foresight of Bp Hodur in the last 65 years? (Bp Hodur died in 1953)

### PNCC Future Directions Update

If you know the history of our church, you know that Bp Hodur championed the cause of the downcast, the needy, the poor and the disenfranchised. He formed the PNU of America when mem-

bers of the PNCC lost their life insurance. He found ways to provide assistance for the families who had lost a husband and father in the mines and were thrown out of their "company house" by the end of the week. Bishop Hodur was both socially and politically active in doing all that he could to see to it that every man and woman created by God in His own image had the right to freedom, to earn a just wage and to worship the God that created them. The causes that he fought for were real problems however, unlike the whimsical charade of issues that dominate the news today. Do we realize how far ahead of his time Bp Hodur actually was? He was a visionary, a man who was unafraid to venture forth whatever the cost may be, even if it meant personal persecution and ridicule. Do we realize that women had the "right to vote" in our parishes before our nation passed the law on women's suffrage? Truly amazing! Back to the questions I posed which I will answer.

Yes, some of the reasons the break occurred are still pertinent. The ecclesial democracy of our denomination still has a place in today's world. Parish ownership of property (at least in the Catholic world) is still something that is unique to us. I know that other Catholic denominations now have committees of sort, yet their power is somewhat limited. Mass in Polish is celebrated less often and the vernacular today is mostly English and thankfully also Spanish in some locales. We certainly cannot remain a Polish ethno-centered church as we were in the nascent days of the PNCC. Even in the preamble of the constitution are the words: "the first and foremost objective and aim of this Church is the salvation and sanctification of the Polish people and *all others* united with this Church."

Our constitution has a system of checks and balances that model that of our nation. The democracy in the church, when it is fulfilled and interpreted rightly is a thing of beauty. Yet as a bishop, I am called to parishes and situations where democracy has run amuck. When parish governance is in disarray and has become a sad game of tug-a-war, the parish will suffer and die unless it is corrected. In some parishes a "club mentality" dominates with the exclusion of all others. Scripture tells us "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (Luke 12:48 NIV) This statement should shake us to our boots, especially for those who take on the mantle of parish leadership. We also need to consider the role of the pastor. The pastor is assigned or removed by the diocesan bishop. He is also (or should be) under the protection of the diocesan bishop whom he should see as a spiritual father and mentor. The priest has pledged his ministry and obedience to his ordaining bishop and his successors. Likewise, his ordinary should always be cognizant of the awesome responsibility he has in caring for his diocesan priests as well as for their families as well. When the pastor's role is not perceived by the flock as being the leader, the shepherd, the one who is to be followed, there is little chance of growth nor vibrancy in the parish. When the words: charity, respect, forgiveness, cooperation, grace, hope and love are absent in a parish, even Jesus Himself could not make a difference if He walked in the front door on Sunday morning.

The answer to the second questions "What have we as a church done to continue the vision and foresight of Bp Hodur?" is one I cannot answer. The answer lies at the address of every parish of the PNCC. What is your parish known for in the community or is it even known by anyone outside of its own parishioners? What is the purpose, your mission, the goal of your parish for the next year or the next ten or twenty years? How does your parish serve the greater community? Have you even thought about it? Most importantly what part do **YOU play** in the continuance of building God's kingdom on earth through your parish?

It is a well known fact that in any movement, revival, rebirth (call it what you may) there is always a charismatic leader who has the innate ability to move people to action. That person is able to shake people out of their complacency, to motivate and encourage them, to think bigger dreams and to dare larger odds and to bind them together in a common cause to achieve great things. Bp Hodur was such a man who dared to do great things for God. Unfortunately, once that person dies, it is difficult to continue the fervor, the dream and the vision. Jesus Himself knew that He must equip those who would follow Him with the necessary strength, wisdom and fortitude to continue His mission on earth. He chose twelve men who followed Him for three years during His earthly ministry. After Jesus ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit was sent at the first Pentecost, the twelve were enlivened to spread the faith.

They in turn trained and mentored others, who spread Christianity to the four corners of the earth. Bp Hodur did the same, making sure that there would be deacons, priests, bishops and committed laity to carry on the work of the PNCC. Having been the bishop of the Central Diocese and the pastor of St. Stanislaus Cathedral for a short while, I would hear some comments made on occasion. Not all were kind or Christian, yet everyone feels they are entitled to their "opinion." Someone once said "We haven't had a good bishop in this Cathedral since Bp Hodur." I took offense, not for my sake, but for the sake of the other fine bishops who through the years, offered their gifts and talents to God through their priesthood and as bishops of the church. None were saints, and all were sinners and fallen human beings to be sure. I am certain without a doubt however, that the ministry they offered and the decisions they had to make came from a heart filled with a deep abiding faith tempered by the ever-present grace of the Almighty. I'm sure that not everything they did pleased everyone but they knew in their hearts that God had called them to shepherd; to lead their flocks and diocese. Trusting in the grace of God, that is what they did. Thinking back, I would, in Christian charity forgive the comment and realize that the person was probably influenced by someone who had simply been unable to move forward. They were stuck in time and chose to remain in that time warp, because it's easier there and you don't have to commit to anything to make it better.

What if we made a parallel comment such as "we haven't had good and dedicated parishioners since the time of Bp Hodur." Ouch! Now that puts our face in the mirror. We are now in the hot seat. When we compare ourselves to the early founders of the church, most of us

## Future Direction—Synod Article

PNCC? My mother +Frances relayed those instances to me from her youth. I know also, that a few of the priests of our diocese have been maligned in such a manner for joining our denomination, but most of us have not experienced this firsthand, What about losing your job because you affiliated with the PNCC? When was the last time you re-mortgaged your house to provide funds for the construction of a new parish building or gave the parish a no-interest loan that you never asked to be repaid anyways? One of the “mature” parishioners at Holy Mother of the Rosary once told me a true story. During the construction of the cathedral, there were always “special items” that were offered to be sponsored by parishioners. We all know the scenario. Stations, altars, statues, stained glass windows just to name a few. She was asked to offer the main stained glass window of the Resurrected Jesus that shines beautifully on the east wall of the sanctuary. Although she had been planning on replacing her car with a new one, she agreed to take on that sponsorship. As she relayed the story to me, she pointed at the window and said, “there’s my new Cadillac.” Yet, I truly believe that in her mind and in her heart of hearts, the window was more important. She did what God compelled her to do. How many of us would make the same choice? We stand at the crossroads.

In closing this edition, as your diocesan shepherd I would like to add this. It is imperative that all parishes send their pastors and allotted delegates to our Holy Synod. There is **no excuse** for non-attendance. It is sinful to neglect the freedoms and democracy that so many fought for in the formation of our denomination. We dishonor them by our complacency and apathy. We are at a point in history when our church can experience a spiritual rebirth and new growth as a truly Catholic and apostolic Church. We have in our denomination what others crave and desire to have. We must define our denomination by what we truly are and possess and not by “what we are not.” Yes, it takes courage, yes it takes commitment and sacrifice. The eighth statement of the Declaration of Faith says: “I believe that every true Christian should take an active and vital part in the spiritual life of the Church.” It is time to shake off our complacency and to live out our baptismal promises made so many years ago. It is time to discover our unique part in bringing the presence of Christ to the world. It is time to more deeply define our relationship with Jesus. It is time to stop whining about the situations of our parishes and of the denomination as a whole and yes, even of the secular world around us and do something about it! Prime Bp. Francis Hodur, the organizer of the PNCC, knew what he was called to do and he acted upon it. Will you do the same? **It is time to commit!**

## 4th Annual YMSofR Golf Tournament

The 4th Annual YMSofR PNCC Golf Tournament was held on an overcast morning on Saturday, August 18.

The tournament was sponsored by Branch #20 of the YMSofR out of Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral and held at Rothland Golf Course in the Buffalo, NY area. The tournament kicked off with prayer by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky.

The team of Father Jason Soltysiak (!), Andy Ross, Tom Fox (both of Scranton) and Bob Giczkowski (Lancaster, NY) took home the top honors.

A write-up will be featured in the upcoming Rola Boza/God’s Field. Since Fr. Jason attended alone from St. Mary’s, the only picture he got was of his lunch one day—a Buffalo favorite, Beef-on-Weck.



## Solemnity of the Dormition of the BVM



Each year on August 15, we celebrate our patronage and devotion to traditional Catholic Theology as we keep the Feast of the Dormition/ Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mass was held at 9am this morning, with the traditional Blessing of Herbs, flowers, and firstfruits.

Mass concluded with a

Hymn to the Blessed Mother and prayers before her side Altar.

Our theology is the unchanged Catholic Theology—believing that Mary had a “falling asleep” before her bodily assumption into Heaven—we share this tradition with the Orthodox Church, but not the Roman Catholic Church, who changed their belief not long ago.



## September Days of Note



### September

- 1st – Judy Lynne Mondok
- 1st – Brett Spilka
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jim Ploskonka
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Elaine Ploskonka
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Sharon Skiba
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Marcus Todorovich
- 13<sup>th</sup> – David Knapp
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Monika Gorchek
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Andrea Grmovsek
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Rose Kronen
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Bob Bernacki



### September

- 19<sup>th</sup> – Pete & Marge O'Conner
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Steve & Barbara Fesz
- 26<sup>th</sup> – John & Adrienne Michalczyk
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Bp. Stanley & Debbie Bilinski
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Tom & Cherie Kugler

## Welcome Back to School

“Dear students,  
the summer has ended.  
The school year at last has begun.  
But this year is totally different.  
We’re going to only have fun.

“We won’t study any mathematics,  
and recess will last all day long.  
Instead of the pledge of allegiance,  
we’ll belt out a rock-and-roll song.

“We’ll only play games  
in the classroom.  
You’re welcome to bring  
in your toys.  
It’s okay to run in the hallways.  
It’s great if you make lots of noise.

“For homework, you’ll play your  
Nintendo.  
You’ll have to watch lots of T.V.  
For field trips  
we’ll go to the movies  
and get lots of candy for free.

“The lunchroom will only serve  
chocolate  
and triple fudge sundaes supreme.”  
Yes, that’s what I heard  
from my teacher  
before I woke up from my dream.

**-Ken Nesbitt-**



## Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary’s parishioners:

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	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Gail Perz	Amy Dreger
Halina Dreger	Patti Dotson
Jack Spilka	Barbara Bogzevitz

Please pray for our family and friends:

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Sharon Seitz
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Mark & Kim Andreas	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzurhoff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Bill Hinton
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Mary Cawley	Edna Samelson
Anthony Soltysiak	Geri S.
Wanda Heffner	Larry Bernacki
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Muffie B.	Nancy Jablonowski
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Rich Dombrowski
Shannon Alberino	Jayden Pieciak
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Julia Badarzynski
George & Linda Makovicka	Mike Sikut
Kelly B. Barbara B.	Julie R. Julie L.

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

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