

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

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

**July/August 2024**

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## Men's Retreat 2024

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski United YMSofR Men's Spiritual Retreat took place June 12-15, 2024 on the beautiful grounds of Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA. The theme of the Retreat was "Iron Sharpens Iron" and is based off of Proverbs 27:7: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." The retreat was planned by a subcommittee consisting of Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Rev. Jim Konicki, Rev. Jim Ploskonka, Nick Kazinetz, Dave Pecynski, Andrew Humphreys, and Kevin McConlogue.

Wednesday afternoon marked arrivals, with attendees from 5 states converging at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center. Rooms were chosen, acquaintances were made and renewed, and a few of the able men assisted in the raising of the new cross on Kicker Hill. Appreciation to Chuck Daehn (Holy Mother of the Rosary; Lancaster, NY) who couldn't wait to offer his expertise in muscling the cross into place. The men were eventually called down to newly renovated Great Hall



where the opening dinner was served. Sufficiently fed, the retreat began in earnest with prayer Wednesday evening. The Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop-Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, blessed new vestments for use at the retreat center. The vestments were purchased from donations made from the YMSofR 90 for 90 campaign a few years back, uplifting the worship life of attendees as well as the recreational life at Spojnia Farm. Donning the newly-blessed vestments, Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (St. Michael the Archangel; Cedar Lake, IN) led the opening liturgy, which was the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament is a focus each year at our retreat; it is exposed and available for adoration from this opening liturgy until our final Mass.

An 8am breakfast welcomed the men on Thursday, followed by flag raising and our first Mass was offered by Bishop John Mack. It was a votive Mass of a Spiritual Retreat, with the priest's present serving as concelebrants. Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski (Administrator of the PNCC Western Diocese/St. Mary's; South Bend, IN) offered the homily via Zoom, focusing on the expanse of the love of God made known through His Son, Jesus Christ. Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk topped our morning with a well-rounded presentation on "The Brotherhood of St. Paul, forged by Iron."

We prayed the Angelus (David Humphreys) before lunch and enjoyed what has been perhaps the most memorable meal of our 7 years of retreat. While pierogi (store bought and St. Mary's in Parma) were served, the showstopper was the response of the men of "Show us your favorite kielbasa!" Partitioned out in 3 categories (smoked, fresh, miscellaneous/other), we had 22 different kielbasas to taste

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and determine winners in each category. And just as serious the response to bring kielbasa was the care that these Polish and Polish-adjacent men took in meticulously sampling, comparing, re-tasting, taking notes, scoring, and commenting on each variety.

An afternoon of free time consisted of choice between a limousine tour of Lake Wallenpaupack, a 9-hole golf outing, a trip to local PNCC Sites, or an afternoon of solitude.

Following the afternoon, a pool patio BBQ took place, with stories shared of the afternoon. A visiting Brady Soltysiak offering grace for the men in attendance. Three Eucharistic Devotions, prepared by Rev. Jim Konicki, were offered after dinner in the Eucharistic Chapel. Fr. Konicki led a reflection on "Jesus, Pre-Figured"; Fr. Ploskonka led one on "Jesus, Revealed"; and Fr. Sr. Kowalczyk on "Jesus, Lived". Each reflection built upon each other and the full idea that Jesus always was supposed to be present in the Blessed Sacrament.

After breakfast and clean up, Friday morning, the men acknowledged Flag Day (June 14) by gathering not only for flag raising, but for the blessing of a new American Flag. Deacon Justin Daviault (Eastern Diocese) offered the blessing upon the flag, with the veterans of the group (David Dudzinski, David Humphreys, Ray Bielski, Deacon Justin) raising it before the gathered faithful. Deacon Justin then offered a session on his life as a neo-deacon in the Polish National Catholic Church, telling stories and fielding questions in what served as an informal vocations panel.

Holy Mass followed the session and was offered by Rev. Jim Konicki. It was a votive Mass to the Word of God, and Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski (Administrative Senior-Eastern Diocese Southeast Seniorate) of-



## Opening Article (cont)

ferred the sermon, encircling the PNCC's sacramentology, history of the Word of God as Sacrament, and incorporation the Symbol of the PNCC through it all.

After lunch clean-up, there was an hour of silent time, with the requirement to turn off technology. Some spent the time before the Eucharist, others in their rooms, and others in "quiet" conversation. Rev. Jim Ploskonka then led a session on the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, placing the faithful in a courtroom setting while setting up and knocking down theories against the Resurrection as if they were bowling pins.

Dodging raindrops after a quiet afternoon, the men welcomed our keynote speaker of the event, SSG. Earl Granville. Sergeant Granville was originally from the area and committed to service just days before September 11, 2001. His assignments overseas were in defense of our nation and following that event. He met with the guys for an hour or so before his speech, and after a hearty official welcome by Fr. Jason, he spoke for an hour on his life and what kept him going through some bleak and desperate times. He then fielded a variety of questions ranging from his faith, national defense policies, his life in Northeast Pennsylvania, collegiality amongst veterans, adaptations to life as an amputee, and more. SSG Granville speaks all across America and we are thankful to donors who helped make his appearance at our retreat possible.

The event closed with hearty appetizers served by local legend Mama Kaz (with righthand gal Wanda Stash). Deacon Justin closed the evening with the Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the men scattered off for conversation, a bonfire, a bit more tv, and solitude.

Saturday was our final morning together and began with Morning Prayer and flag raising before breakfast. Fr. Jason led the morning prayer and Ray Bielski, our flag-raiser extraordinaire, raised the flag a final time for our event.

The Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky then arrived and offered our final session, which was on our theme of "Iron Sharpens Iron". He detailed some observations he made on his (long) daily visits to our retreat and applied them to his words. He focused on

how culturally adept the phrase "iron sharpens iron" was in the time it was written, and how if there were no sharpening stones available, friends would literally sharpen one's blade across that of another's – literally sharpening each other in the process.

Following our final session was our final Mass. Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid (Holy Mother of Sorrows; Dupont, PA) served as celebrant for a Mass for Health, and Rev. Jason Soltysiak offered a homily that explained the Sacrament of Anointing, its history in scripture, how and why oil was used, and the availability of the Sacrament to the men present this day. After Mass, all were anointed by Father Senior for their needs of heart, soul, body, mind, and for traveling mercies.

Fr. Jason offered final words of thanks to all who worked prior to, during, and attended the retreat. Prime Bishop commended the work of the United YMSofR, and President Nick Kazinetz offered some potential adventures for the YMSofR ahead. Special thanks was given to the kitchen and clean up help: Nick K., Dave P., Bob G., Dave H., Chuck D., Jeremy N., Andrew H., and Kevin M.

Our retreat continues to grow annually in numbers and spirit because of the dedication of the men of the Church to ensure that it is a spiritual event worthy of one's attendance. The schedule is argued-over and debated to make sure it retains the balance of spirit, worship, downtime, and activity worthy of a retreat geared towards men of the Church. May this event continue to glorify God and to envelop in His love and care the men of the Polish National Catholic Church and beyond.

*Fr. Jason— Director of the 7th Annual Men's Spiritual Retreat*





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

### Corpus Christi

A beautiful event takes place each year as we head towards the conclusion of the post-Easter Solemnities, and that is the Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christ. St. Mary's retains the traditional Eucharistic Procession to the 4 altars that concludes Holy Mass. The Love of God Sodality and Fr. Jason arrived to the parish on the morning of

June 2 to see the grounds wet and the weather threatening, leading to the decision to celebrate the Mass indoors. Altars were dressed and prepared by members of the Sodality, and as Mass concluded, the Most Blessed Sacrament was ritually placed into the Monstrance and processed to the four church corners, each corner altar featuring a Gospel passage and a blessing.

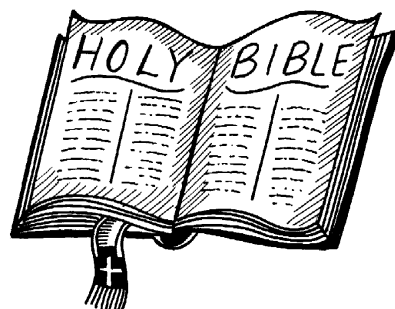
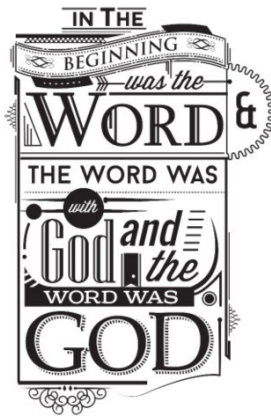
The liturgy, lengthy yet meaningful, was enjoyed by all in attendance and a display of traditional Catholicism in a world moving away from traditional practices. God was praised!



### Word of God Sunday

Sunday, June 9 was the premiere of the Solemnity of the Word of God in the Polish National Catholic Church. Promulgated by the Bishops of the PNCC, this Feast raises this Sacrament, unique to the PNCC, the highest rank of a day: Solemnity. Unique within the Catholic tradition, the Polish National Catholic Church recognizes the preaching and hearing of the Word of God as a Sacrament. Our Church combines Baptism and Confirmation as the first sacrament, as Confirmation is the completion of Baptism, and adds The Preaching and Hearing of the Word of God as the second Sacrament. This understanding of preaching as a sacramental action came about at the Second General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church held in Scranton, Pennsylvania on September 28 and 29, 1909. A report of the Synod, printed in the Church's official organ in 1913, gives the official report of the Synod: "Hearing of the Word of God preached according to the teachings of Christ the Lord and the Apostles, has sacramental force, that is, it caus-

es in us the same effects as does the receiving of the other sacraments."





## Fathers' Day at St. Mary's

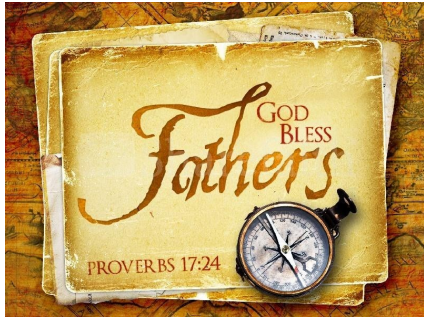
Holy Mass on Fathers' Day, June 16, was celebrated by the "elder statesman" of the clergy of St. Mary's, Rev. Gronn.

With Fr. Jim and Fr. Jason having just

returned from the men's retreat (and Chuck!), Fr. Gronn happily offered to lead our worship of Almighty God this morning. Fr. Jason offered the homily.

Afterwards, all the men of the parish were

treated to a little treat bag to take home and enjoy that day and throughout the week. What a blessing Fathers' Day 2024 was!



## Western Diocese Concert & Convention

The United Circle Choirs of the PNCC Western Diocese took place June 21-23 in Milwaukee, WI hosted by SS Peter & Paul Parish. The theme of the weekend was "Be the Change." A contingent of choir members of St. Mary's (and beyond) attended, including: Fr. Jim & Elaine Ploskonka, Mike & Barb Wisniewski, Marzena Krulik,

Mitch & Sarah Ploskonka, and Karen Colwell. Fr. Jim offered greetings at the concert on behalf of Fr. Jason and organist/choir director, Christine Paulus, who were both unable to attend. You may watch/listen to the concert video at the link attached here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKnydi5JWmg>

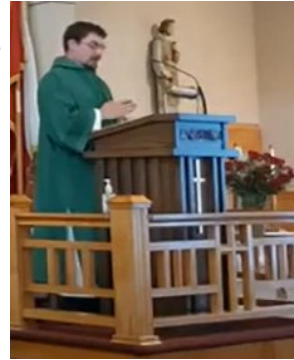




## Sub-Deacon Talaga Visits St. Mary's

Sub-Deacon David Talaga ventured south from mid-Wisconsin to St. Mary's the weekend of July 12-14 for some liturgical training and more. Fr. Jason met with Sub-Deacon Talaga for a large portion that Saturday, working on the finer points on what would be needed to continue his walk of progression through Holy Orders. Sub-Deacon David assisted Fr. Jason at Mass on July 14, offering the readings

and intercessions while also handling the missal at Mass. He met with a number of parishioners after Mass before heading home. Please keep the ministry of Sub-Deacon Talaga in your prayers.



## Mass and Collection in memory of sp. Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko

St. Mary's held a collection from late June and through July in memory of the first anniversary of the passing of our diocesan shepherd, the Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko. The monies will be forwarded to the diocese for use in providing a scholarship or grant in Bishop Rafalko's name.

90 days, and a year after the end of his earthly pilgrimage. We remembered his soul and ministry in our prayers, as well as the hopes and future of the diocese and parishes he led.

Holy Mass was celebrated on July 14 in loving memory of Bishop Rafalko on the day after the first anniversary of his death. St. Mary's kept an old Catholic practice of having Mass in his memory right after his death, 30 days,



## Prayers Answered

Last month, the opening article featured a story about a woman on her way to Cleveland for an organ transplant; I am thrilled to pass on that the prayers of many were answered that my father, Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak of St. Joseph's in Westfield, MA of the PNCC's Eastern Diocese was the recipient of a liver transplant in the last number of days. Praise God for the gift of advancing medical tech-

nology and prayers for the soul of the donor. Rev. Greg Gronn offered Holy Mass with this dual Intention on Sunday, July 7 as Fr. Jason was away from the parish to be with family.





## Food Ministry Program Reaches Milestone: 25,000 Meals Served

On July 24th, the Food Ministry program of our St. Mary's Polish National Catholic parish celebrated a significant milestone: the distribution of its 25,000th meal. This achievement marks not just a number, but a testament to the dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment of our community to live out the teachings of Christ.

### Answering Christ's Call

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink" (Matthew 25:35). These words are at the heart of our Food Ministry program. The act of feeding the hungry is not merely a charitable act; it is a direct response to Christ's call to love and serve the least among us. By providing for those in need, we affirm our faith and our commitment to living out the Gospel in practical and impactful ways.

### The Journey to 25,000 Meals

The journey to 25,000 meals began with a simple but profound mission: to provide a meal to those who are hungry. Volunteers have come together, united by a common purpose, to prepare, cook, and distribute meals. Their tireless efforts, fueled by faith and love, have made this milestone possible over the past ten years.

Each meal served represents a story of hope and compassion. For many, these meals have been a lifeline during difficult times. The elderly who live alone, families struggling to make ends meet, and individuals facing unexpected crises have all found solace and support through the Food Ministry program.

### The Power of Community

The success of the Food Ministry program is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when we come together with a shared vision. Parishioners, local businesses, and many others have all played a crucial role in supporting this mission. Donations of food, funds, and time have been instrumental in sustaining and expanding our outreach. The kitchen, often seen as the heart of a home, has become the heart of this parish. It is a place where volunteers gather,

For I was hungry and  
you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me  
something to drink,  
I was a stranger and  
you invited me in.  
Matthew 25:35



not just to prepare food, but to forge bonds of friendship and fellowship. The act of serving others has strengthened our community, deepening our sense of connection and purpose.

### Looking Ahead

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we are reminded that our work is far from over. The need for food assistance remains pressing, and our commitment to serving the hungry continues. The Food Ministry program will persist in its mission, inspired by the teachings of Christ and the resilience of those we serve.

We look forward to the future with hope and determination, knowing that each meal served is a step toward building a more compassionate and just world. As we move forward, we invite all members of our parish and community to join us in this mission. Whether through volunteering, donating, or offering prayers, every act of support makes a difference.

### A Prayer of Gratitude

As we commemorate the serving of the 25,000th meal, let us offer a prayer of gratitude: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the abundant blessings You have bestowed upon our Food Ministry program. We are grateful for the volunteers, donors, and supporters who have made this milestone possible. We ask for Your continued guidance and strength as we strive to serve those in need. May our efforts always reflect Your love and compassion. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### Conclusion

The 25,000th meal served by our Food Ministry program is a milestone that celebrates more than just numbers; it celebrates the spirit of giving, the power of community, and the teachings of Christ. Let us continue to be His hands and feet, reaching out to those in need with love and compassion, and striving to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

In His service,

Rev. Dr. Jim Ploskonka





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

### Convo 2024

Marzena, Brady, and Fr. Jason hopped on the road on Monday afternoon, July 22 to Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA for the National PNCC Convo 2024. This was Marzena and Brady's 2nd Convo (2022, 2024) and Fr. Jason's 11th (1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2022, 2024).

A welcome was given by the Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop-Ordinary of the host Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese as well as the 3 Convo co-chairs and the 2 Convo Chaplains (Rev. Scott Lill and Rev. Mark Swoger). Opening ceremonies, a la the Olympics, were held, in response to the theme of this year's Convo: "Running the Race", based on 1st Corinthians 9:24.

The first trip was made to the dining hall, where many large "Erie Laker" football players intermingled with the Convo group. The food was good, with many choices available each day, including an expansive salad bar. That evening, the "Olympic teams" were



drafted, with our own Brady drafted as captain of his very own team, named, "The Brady Bunch."

Tuesday featured an inspiring pep-talk for our faith by a Youth Minister named Braden Johnson, who was visiting us for the week. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky con-celebrated Mass with the other attending bishops, Bishop John Mack and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, with Bishop John offering the homily.

A service project of creating and blessing prayer blankets (very close to our hearts here at St. Mary's) was participated-in by all. The Convo Olympics were held in the bright, burning sun, with all sorts of hula hoop adjacent and other games being played by the (randomly) drafted Olympic teams. After dinner, National United Choir announcements and presentations were made, with the exceptional, tra-



ditional Convo Dance taking place to close the evening. The men running the DJ booth played hits of yesterday and today; a photo booth allowed for some great, planned shots; and snacks and cold drinks were available for all.

Wednesday's first session after breakfast was by Pam Stenzel, a professional "birds and the bees" speaker. The kids were appropriately and awkwardly educated.





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

### Convo 2024 (continued)

Holy Mass of the Holy Spirit followed, with Bishop John Mack as celebrant and Fr. Jason Soltysiak serving as homilist, bringing in how intertwined the Holy Spirit was with the Christmas story. After lunch, Fr. Scott Lill took the proverbial baton and showed how the faith was passed from Christ through various saints, beginning with Mary as Queen of the Saints, a follower of Christ before even meeting Christ! Rev. Jim Konicki led a vocations panel for the boys and Darlene Pajak led one for the girls. Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk led a quick National United Youth Association update and primer before a bit of free time, dinner, and the intellectual test of our "Olympic teams", the Scripture/Catechism Quiz Bowl!

Thursday, a beautiful day, began with breakfast and Holy Mass on the Feast of St. James the Greater, celebrated by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski with Rev. Mark Swoger offering a sermon on the extent of the power of God's forgiveness, replete with props! Afterward, sunblock was applied and the bus was boarded on the way to Waldameer Amusement and waterpark. The group was met by Fr. Jim and Roland Ploskonka, who spent the day with Brady while the rest of the group galivanted on wa-

ter slides, wave pools, roller coasters, sky rides, teacups, lazy rivers, and more. Drinks were provided by the Polish National Alliance along with bag lunches.

After a long day, the group returned back to campus, where, after washing up, the National YMSofR provided a substantial amount of subs, chips, and desserts for a later dinner. They then made a short presentation, which preceded diocesan caucuses and elections of National United Youth Association delegates. Congrats to all elected, especially our very own Marzena!

Friday, our final day, was picture-perfect once again. A final presentation by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky was combined with our closing Olympic ceremonies, with each Christian athlete acknowledged and recipients of medals.

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, National PNCC Youth Chaplain, con-

celebrated the final Mass with Rev. Jim Konicki (Central Diocese Youth Chaplain) and Rev. Scott Lill and Mark Swoger (Convo Chaplains). Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak offered the sermon, navigating the Convo through a dream he had as a rock star and how his mother guided him to preaching about keeping the focus on Jesus. Lunch concluded the 2024 Youth Convocation – none of the youth were in a hurry to leave, grabbing a little bit of this and that until it was time to pack the cars and go.

Thanks be to God for an enjoyable, safe, and spiritual time at our Youth Convo. We pray for even more participation of the youth of the PNCC in the future.

*Right: Northeast Seniorate of Western Diocese Participants. Below: Convo Group Picture in front of Chapel.*





## Various Announcements

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** – For all of August, we will use the 4<sup>th</sup> Eucharistic Prayer on page 88.

**CONVO 2024** – Marzena, Brady, and Fr. Jason had a blast attending this past Convo at Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA. Each served an important role: Marzena was elected to serve on the executive board of the National United Youth Association, lectured during Convo Masses, sang the Responsorial Psalm, and was a true leader amongst her peers. Brady was drafted to be captain of his “olympic” team, named “The Brady Bunch”, which he led to a number of first place finishes while also adding appropriate comic relief. Fr. Jason offered the sermon at Mass on Tuesday of the Holy Spirit and didn’t lose his son amongst the participants of Convo and the football players already on campus for training. Next year, the Western Diocese will host the biannual diocesan youth gathering at a location TBD, and in 2026 the Eastern Diocese in New England will host Convo 2026.

**PARISH COMMITTEE** - Met for the month of July on Monday, July 29. The Committee continues to strive

to serve the best interests of the parish, while taking on the responsibility of their positions as elected volunteers. Pray for our committee!

**APOLLO'S FIRE** – There is interest from the parish to do some group attendance on December 12 in Bay Village to enjoy a rendition of *Handel's Messiah*. More information is to come – Contact Bill Zychowski with interest or Fr. Jason.

**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**– A parish meeting (the highest governing body of any Polish National Catholic Parish) will take place on Sunday, August 4 after 9am Holy Mass. The meeting will include the election of two (2) representatives to the 2024 Diocesan Synod (October 15-16 in Chicago, IL), an update to some financial information, and a few other agenda items. Make sure to strive to attend this meeting, exercising your democratic power in parish decisions that our laypeople enjoy!

**PARISH BIBLE STUDY** – Is there a different time of day or day of the week that

you may be open to participate in a Bible Study? Let Fr. Jason know! Would be happy to start a new study in the autumn at a time of parishioner's choice.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**– We have 5 signed up for the Aug 24 Golf Tournament in Buffalo– please see Fr. Jason if you'd like information.

**HOME VISITATIONS** – If anyone knows a parishioner or family member that would like a clergy visit, please contact Fr. Jason.

**BIBLE STUDY** – Our next Bible Study takes place at 6pm on Wednesday, August 7th.

**FOOD MINISTRY**–The parish Food Ministry recently hit 25k (see article on p. 6!) Volunteers and donations are always sought—please see Nancy Roharik or Pattie Bennett.

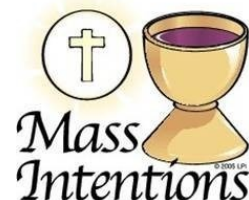
**SCHEDULING MASSES**– A reminder that you may offer an intention for Holy Mass for a loved one, be he or she thriving on this earth or thriving with our Lord in Heaven. See Fr. Jason to schedule: final 2024 available dates are below.



## Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

- August 4 – Irene Amburgey of. by husband Jack (13th Anv.)
- August 11 – Raymond Avondet of. by son Mark & Cathy Avondet
- August 18 – Tom Petrie (birthday) of. by wife Alice Petrie & daughter Audrey Spanjol
- August 25 – Claire & Bob Hunek of. by John & Eileen Kasperczyk
- September 1 – Stanley Dobrowolski of. by daughter Pattie Dotson
- September 8– Open Intention
- September 15 – Konrad & Josephine Kopaczewski of. by son-in-law Jack Amburgey
- September 22– George Stepanik of. by brother Gene Stepanik
- September 29 – Steve Temesi (20th Anv.) of. by wife Patty

Rest of year open dates: Sep. 8; Dec. 8, 22





### Jul/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
- 30th — Barbara Fesz

#### August Birthdays

- 1st — Johanna Markiewicz
- 2nd — Kyrsten LeMassena
- 4th — Blake Colwell
- 5th — Bob Samelson
- 5th — Pete O'Connor
- 6th — John Spilka
- 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

*Have we missed a birthday or anniversary? Just give us a shout so we can fix any errors that have been made :-)*

### Summertime: A Poem

I forgot my Lord in the summer time,  
Just the time I was needed most.  
I was not away, but on each Lord's Day  
I just failed to be at my post.

I forgot my church in the summer time,  
As I lazily lay in bed,  
While the faithful few had my work to do,  
And I was spiritually dead.

I forgot my offerings in the summer time,  
When He needed it most of all,  
While my cash was spent, I was pleasure bent,  
Just off duty for God until Fall!

I forgot my class in the summer time,  
But the devil did not forget,  
Working day & night, he kept up the fight,  
He's a go-getter, you can bet.

I forgot my soul in the summer time,  
Got along without spiritual food,  
While my Lord on High sent me blessings  
I showed Him naught but ingratitude.

If my Lord should come in the summer time,

When from duty to God I am free,  
Wonder what I'll do, when my life is thru  
If, by chance, He should forget me?

**Audrey Mullen**

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### Our Prayer List

*Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends*

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer       | Bob Kaczmarek            |
| Bill Kastak              | Anna Dawidziuk           |
| George Makovicka         | John Spilka              |
| Johanna Markiewicz       | Patrick Kmitt            |
| Jim Boehnlein            | Sauna Smullen            |
| Marty Bengela            | Tom Putynski             |
| Jeff Pardy               | Millie Dominik           |
| Kathleen Beres           | Joseph Bischoff          |
| Al & Donna Micka         | Virginia Potoma          |
| Ed Pierson               | George Bennett           |
| Greg Hodor               | Pattie Dotson            |
| Nicole McGivern          | Jack Spilka              |
| Elaine Repede            | David Vaden              |
| Wanda Clark              | Beth Chihill             |
| Michael Cosevin          | Helen Cummings           |
| Laina Dachtal            | Michael McGivern         |
| Jay Grabowsky            | Pam Chesar               |
| 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               |
| Wojciech Fedorowicz      | Tom Pietka               |
| Pam Tropiano             | Linda Vect               |
| Dennis and Sue Vect      | Marcus Vaughn, Jr.       |
| Bryson Dzuroff           | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Doreen Stanley           | Jane Hunter              |
| Dennis Thome             | The Finnie Family        |
| Carlene Fliss            | Jim Fliss Jr.            |
| John Wisniewski          | Cathy Pieciak            |
| Nan Cramer               | Barb & Jim Lukas         |
| Sage McLane              | Dave Tuma                |
| Phil Repko               | Richard & Edna Samelson  |
| 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               |
| Dan Avondet              | Amanda Monyak            |
| Roseanne & George Ziefle | Judy Alexin              |
| Connie Benko             | Joe Litto                |
| Karsen Winters           | Shyanna Tiller           |
| Maria Muttillio          | Laurie Slominski         |
| Mike Paulus              | Gail Perz                |
| Ron Ference              | Marty DeCara             |

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

