

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

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

**September/October 2024**

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## A Hidden Month of Mary?

One of the odd things that has become second nature for me many years ago is living on multiple calendars- the regular civil calendar and the liturgical calendar. I write about this often, if only because every once in a while, something calendar-wise jumps out that I've never noticed before.

Hidden within the depths of the dog days of summer and Ordinary Time is an exact month of which we look at the patronage of Saint Mary from a variety of angles, all brought alive in worship and the liturgy of the Church. We celebrated these days since our last newsletter ran, so I wanted to share how the church honored Mary during that time.

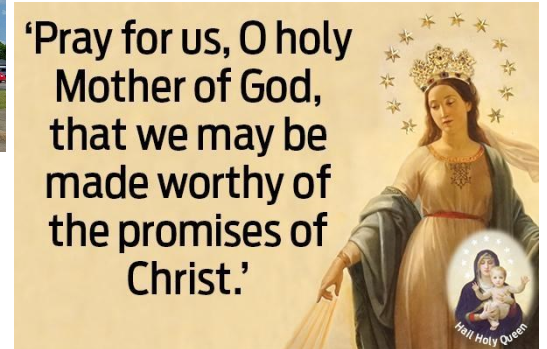
The first day of prominence would be August 15th's Solemnity of the Dormi-

tion of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is an interesting day in the life of a Polish National Catholic, as it is not the "Feast of the Assumption" as it may be called in other denominations. In 1950, Pope Pius XII declared the Assumption of Mary official Dogma of the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Church teaches that the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

The term "Dormition" means "falling asleep." The belief of the early church was that Mary entered into rest in a painless and spiritual way, and then her body was assumed into Heaven. This theology held on for many centuries, until the (above) edict of Pius XII cast a bit of confusion, leaving it nebulous whether Mary died or not before being assumed into Heaven. The fact that this vagueness was made into Church Dogma (defined as revealed by God and binding to the faith, given by church leadership {in this case, an infallible Pope}) made it to be an undeniable matter of faith to some and a matter of ridicule to others.

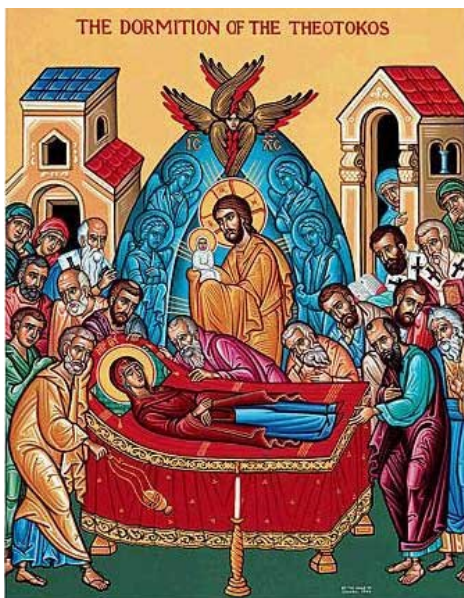
All of this is not scriptural, but based on Catholic Tradition and writings from the first few centuries of Christianity. Of course, as a denomination organized in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the rigidity of the Dogma does not apply to members of the PNCC, but it is not by any means unacceptable to believe. The PNCC

**'Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.'**



simply falls in line with what was traditional Catholic/Orthodox teaching on the Tradition that Mary, having died (fallen asleep) like all other humans, was then taken up to heaven. Liturgically, flowers and herbs are blessed at church to represent the beautiful floral bed left behind after Mary rose to Heaven.

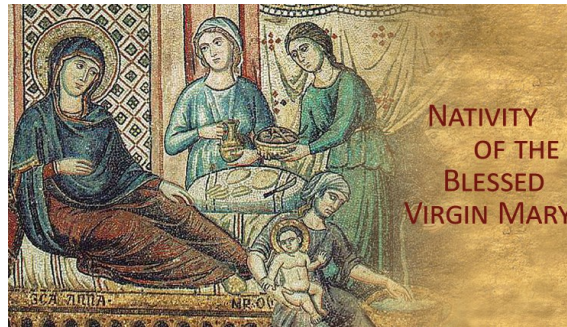
The second day in this hidden "month to Mary" would be August 26<sup>th</sup>'s Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa, or the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa.





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

### Opening Article (cont)



who venerate her as the Queen of Poland. The present Basilica in which the image resides was built in 1902.

Liturgically, we offered a blessing upon the images of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa and said prayers before her altar to conclude Holy Mass.

woman responsible for the “legality” of Christianity discovered this, and with Divine providence guided the image to Constantinople, where it was carefully protected. By 802, the image appeared in Russia. During a war in the middle of the fourteenth century, the image was struck by an enemy arrow. Prince Wladyslaw, in order to prevent the destruction of the image, decided to transport it to Poland. While traveling through Poland, with the image in a horse drawn carriage, the horses refused to go any further when they reached the town of Czestochowa. The prince went up to the chapel on top of the hill Jasna Gora to pray, since he saw the horses' refusal to go on as a divine message. In a dream, Our Lady appeared to him, and told him she wanted the image to be venerated there in Czestochowa. This was in the year 1382. The prince ordered the building of a monastery and an even larger church. She has been in Czestochowa since this time, and has become a national treasure of the Polish people,

The third feast would be September 8<sup>th</sup>'s Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is an interesting feast day because it was almost an afterthought on the calendar. In the early church, the example of life given from heaven would always be the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 25...9 months before Christmas Day) that Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit, which made her conception of Jesus (life within her, Word made Flesh) more important than the day of birth. Therefore, “conception” days took a greater prominence in the early church, with the Conception of the Blessed Mother listed at an exact 9 month's prior on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Liturgically, the only extra “thing” that we do is offer prayers before Mary's Altar to conclude Mass. Like all Marian days, the Marian altar is decorated, the candles are lighted thereupon, and a Marian hymn concludes Mass.

The final feast of the hidden month of Mary is September 15<sup>th</sup>s (exactly one month after the Dormition) Holy Mother of Sorrows, or Our Lady of Sorrows.

Our parish of St. Mary's once carried the full moniker of “Saint Mary of Czestochowa”, which is kind of an indirect translation of the Solemnity. The legend says that after Jesus' crucifixion, when the Virgin Mary moved to St. John's home, she took with her some personal articles, among them a table made by our Redeemer in St. Joseph's workshop. The story continues and says that when the pious women of Jerusalem asked St. Luke to do a painting of the Mother of God, he used this table to paint the image. The image remained in Jerusalem for a time, until the Romans began to destroy the city. However, St. Helen, mother of Constantine and the powerful, faith-filled





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### Opening Article (continued again)

This Solemnity focuses on the 7 traditional Sorrows of Mary, which are: 1: The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35); 2: The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15); 3: The Child Jesus Lost in the Temple (Luke 2:41-50); 4: Mary meets Jesus carrying the cross (Station of the Cross #4, Luke 23:27-29), 5: Mary at the foot of the cross (Station of the Cross #11, John 19:25-30) 6: Mary receives the body of Jesus/Jesus is taken down

from the cross (Station of the Cross #13, John 19:38), 7: Mary witnesses the burial of Jesus, her son (Station of the Cross #14, Luke 23:50-56).

Liturgically, there is a special sequence that precedes the gospel called the "Stabat Mater dolorosa", which precedes the Gospel and can be recited or chanted.

Of course, there are a number of other days on the Calendar of the

Church where Mary is honored, and months (May for the totality of "her"; October for the Rosary) where Mary is honored, but there is no single month long period where we have as many of her feast days occurring than what I just laid forth for us—a "hidden month" devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Jason

### Golf Tournament

Branch 20 out of the Lancaster, NY Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral played host to the 10th Annual YMSofR Golf Tournament, held on Saturday, August 24th at Kiss 'n Greens golf course.

Golfers began arriving on Friday, August 23rd at the hotel as synod delegates for the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese were heading home. A busy week for the Cathedral!

The hospitality room was set and stocked, with golfers and supporters alike enjoying each other's company, some good pizza, buffalo hot wings straight out of Buffalo, and, for a second year in a row, some intense competition with the putting mat!

The golf course was about 20 minutes away on what turned out to be a picturesque day to be outdoors. Prime Bishop

Anthony Mikovsky led the golfers in encouragement, and Bishop John Mack provided a prayer and blessing. Donuts and coffee were available during registration and a hot dog & burger were available at "the turn."

The awards banquet was held later in the evening after everyone got a chance to freshen up and rest.

Awards were presented, with St.

Mary's own Fr. Jason winning closest to the pin and the official St. Mary's Men's Team of George Bennett, Mark Avondet, Gene Stepanik, and Bruce Bogzevitz winning the whole thing!

Congrats to them, and we look forward to making the short drive over to the Buffalo area next year once again to enjoy the 11th Golf Tournament.





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

## Quick Hits from the Parish

\*\*\*St. Mary's held a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, August 4th after 9am Mass. A parish meeting is the highest governing body of any Polish National Catholic Parish.

The meeting included some updates to our financial processes, updates to our envelope system for 2025, and the election of two delegates to the 2024 Diocesan Synod (October 15-16 in Chicago, IL). Congratulations to Mike Wisniewski and Susan Boehnlein on their elections.

\*\*\*St. Mary's also held a successful Trunk Sale on Saturday, September 7th. Many tables were sold, food was a hit, and the parish sold a number of

items as well. If only the weather were a bit warmer!

\*\*\*Bible Study concluded a 10 class Study on the 12 Disciples on September 4th—thanks to all who attend, as well as provided food, drinks, and more to our meetings.

### Future Dates to note

\*Golabki Dinner on September 27th

\*Animal Blessing on October 4th in the parking lot—if weather is rough, stay in your vehicle with your pet and Fr. Jason will be the only one to get wet

\*Chili Cook-off –October 13th

\*Kid's Halloween Party and Trunk or

Treat– AM & PM October 27th

\*Kolaczki Sale—November 27th

\*Cookie Sale—December 14th

\*Christmas Kolaczki Sale—December 23rd

\*Wigilia Take Home Dinner-December 23rd

\*Keep your eyes open for Wypominki (Remembrance Prayer) envelopes for October, cardboard and paper recycling, can top collections, Acme receipts, prayerful and tangible support of weekly Food Ministry, meetings of our parish groups, and more

## Youth Sunday

The Polish National Catholic Church celebrates Youth Sunday each year on the fourth Sunday of August, what once was the last hurrah before kids went back to school.

Two of our parish kids were called up to offer thanks to the parish for supporting their trip to Convo 2024 in Erie, PA. Fr. Jason called up Brady and Marzena to offer their highlights on what was a memorable and enjoyable week.

Brady focused on the games, dance, and especially the cafeteria with its myriad op-

tions of daily pizza, pasta, cereal, and dessert.

Marzena focused on some of the speakers, the camaraderie she shares with many other like-minded Polish National Catholics, as well as her role in service to the National United Youth Association.

Marzena also was elected by her peers to be the youth participant at the upcoming Diocesan Synod in October, where she will have full voice and vote in the proceedings as well as have the honor to present a report.



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

### Sunday, September 15

The Parish celebrated a beautiful Sunday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September, what was the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Back to Church Sunday, and the baptism of CJ.

CJ's family and friends filled in the portion of church in front of Mary's Altar and the baptismal font as the liturgy for Holy Mass began. In his homily, Fr. Jason used the Gospel (Mark 8:27-35) to show how a family and a parish serve as witnesses together to the commitment that one takes of "taking up his cross" and following our Lord and Savior.

After the homily, Fr. Jason took off the green chasuble and stole and donned a purple one and directed the family to the entrance of the church, where the first

portion of the baptismal liturgy took place. The family processed in together with CJ, along with the entire congregation reciting together the Apostle's Creed.



Upon reaching the font and reciting the Lord's prayer and other prayers, Fr. Jason changed stole from purple to white and commenced with the baptism and anointing

with Chrism. All enjoyed this extra blessing as a part of our worship and parish life...with little CJ seemingly enjoying it the most!

After Mass, there was a blessing of a prayer blanket for the dear friend of a parishioner, greetings from a hospitalized parishioner as she was in her hour of need, and the first day of School of Christian Living/Sunday School took place.





**Help Support Our Organization!**

**SHOP & EARN 5% CASH BACK**

**IT'S EASY!**

Save your Acme Fresh Market receipts dated August 1, 2024 – February 15, 2025 to help us raise money!

Earn 5% Community Cash Back on these Participating Brands:



**Participating Brands:**

- ACME Fresh Market
- Community CASH BACK
- food club
- TopCare
- tippy toes.
- simply done
- FULL CIRCLE market
- sweet ps
- Paus Happy Life
- WIDE AWAKE COFFEE CO.
- PURE HARMONY
- THAT'S SMART!
- Cape Covelle MARKET
- Over the TOP

**ST. MARY'S YMS OF R PRESENTS**

**CHILI COOK-OFF**

10.13.2024 **BRING THE HEAT!** 11am - 12:30pm

Hot Prizes for the best traditional and non-traditional chili - Bring your best! Followed by Browns at Eagles, 1pm Squares to purchase for the game! All are invited! Everyone is a judge!

**YUM!**

5375 Broadview Road  
Parma, OH 44134



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

### Various Announcements

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** – For the month of October, we will use the 1st Eucharistic Prayer during Sunday Holy Mass.

**SOCL** – School of Christian Living (Sunday School) has begun. It is going to be a tremendous year of study and love of the Lord!

**APOLLO'S FIRE** – on Thursday December 12 in Bay Village parishioners are invited to enjoy a rendition of Handel's Messiah. Group tickets will be purchased this week for roughly \$50 per ticket – if your desire to attend has changed, please notify Fr. Jason today!

**TRUNK OR TREAT** – Our Second Trunk or Treat event takes place on Sunday, October 27 in the early afternoon. We had wonderful participation from our parishioners last year and hope for a few more in this great way to reach out and be present in our community. Decorate your trunk; bring some candy; dress yourself up and enjoy this warm-up to All Hallow's eve!

**BIBLE STUDY NEWS** – After enjoying a really nice movie this past week, we invite all parishioners to be with us on Wednesday, October 2 for the opening of our new lesson on "Old Testament

Characters". The beginning of a new lesson is a great time to consider joining up in our every-other-Wednesday Bible Study- see Elaine Repede with questions.

**OPERATION: CHRISTMAS CHILD** – We will once again work with Samaritan's Purse to provide Christmas gifts across the world. Boxes will be available shortly, along with descriptions of what is needed, including cash donation of \$10 for postage. See Evonne Pryer.

**BASKET RAFFLE** – Please support, as the parish is holding a basket raffle over the next few weeks, including at our upcoming dinner.

**AUTUMN WORD OF GOD STUDY** – The Western Diocese announces a study on the book "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary" by Brant Pitre, led by Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. & Rev. Jim Ploskonka. The study meets via Zoom at 8pm on: Sept. 17 & 24, Oct. 1, 8 & 22. Any questions, please see Fr. Jason.

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

**BOWLING** – The St. Mary's Bowling League has begun! Please see Elaine Ploskonka 216/536-3496 if you'd like to be a part of the league.

**SEMINARY NEWS** – The PNCC's Savonara Theological Seminary has begun its Fall Semester with 5 candidates for the priesthood! Please continue to pray (they are working!) for vocations in our denomination.

**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.

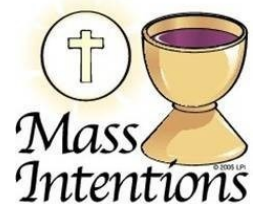


### Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

October 6 – Sophie & Martin Spilka of. by John Spilka  
October 13 – Donna Freeman of. by Cheryl Repko  
October 20 – Adolph Kasperczyk of. by John & Eileen Kasperczyk  
October 27 – Dorothy Kusak of. by the family

November 3– In honor of Kay Beres' 80th Birthday of. by Nancy Roharik  
November 10– Ronald Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe  
November 17 – Hanna Pryer of by daughter Evonne Pryer  
November 24– Ann Stepanik of. by son Gene Stepanik

There are no more open dates for 2024—Fr. Jason will begin taking intentions for 2025 at the beginning of November. St. Mary's continues to be impressive in how her parishioners remember their loved ones in weekly intentions!





### Sep/Oct Days of Note



#### September Birthdays

- 1st – Brett Spilka
- 2nd – Marge O'Connor
- 2nd – Bill Chambers
- 5th – Fr. Jim Ploskonka
- 7th – Elaine Ploskonka
- 7th – Sharon Skiba
- 14th – Pam Nemec
- 17th – Rose Kronen
- 27th – Allison Suarez
- 27th – Roland Ploskonka

#### October Birthdays

- 4th - Marzena Krulik
- 5th - Eileen Cashmere
- 7th - Elaine Repede
- 9th - Nancy Roharik
- 9th - Jo Orlowski
- 10th - Greg Hodor
- 17th - Michael D'Arcy
- 18th - Ron Roharik
- 19th - Cathy Avondet
- 23rd - James Boehnlein
- 25th - Bruce Bogzevitz
- 25th - Jim Nemec
- 30th - Krysta Kurzynski
- 31st - Marlane Oleniacz
- 31st - Patty Temesi



*Happy Anniversary*

#### September Anniversaries

- 1st — Josh & Demi Bengston
- 2nd — Vince & Karen Colwell
- 19th — Pete & Marge O'Connor
- 26th — Steve & Barbara Fesz
- 26th — Tom & Cherie Kugler
- 30th — Bill & Jeanette Chambers

#### October Anniversaries

- 3rd — Jack & Lolly Spilka
- 4th — Jeff & Amy Dreger
- 5th — Pete & Debbie Moritz
- 7th - George & Patty Bennett

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

## Autumn Blessings

Autumn brings to the soul relief,  
as hot Summer days, slip to an end  
God sent the season for weary hearts  
to restore, repair and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees,  
that shed their changing leaves  
God sent the season for failing hearts  
to adhere, embrace and cleave.

Just as with the Autumn winds,  
there comes a new refreshing rain  
God sent the season for fraying  
hearts  
to increase, grow and gain.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb,  
and dips much earlier into the night  
God sent the season for sleepy  
hearts  
to rise, shine and awake in His light.

God gave to us the Autumn season,  
so we could have a respite and rest  
for it is the season for our beset souls  
to see how much we are blessed!

## Deborah Ann Belka

\*\*\*\*\*

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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               | 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              | Nick Demchak             |

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

