

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

September 2022

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shape is different, with hosts for the priest and the congregation being round (circles are a sign of perfection) while Christmas Wafers are usually rectangle, square in some places.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Over the last few months, between Facebook, YouTube, and our own congregation, I've had some questions come up that were new for me...and some that I have been answering my entire 15+ year priesthood. Some are pretty "official" while some are rather cutesy and I would like to address some of these.

FAQ 1 – What kind of wine do you use at Mass?

Sacramental wine, which you (normally) can't buy at any distributor. Now, some of the types of wine may be popular elsewhere, like Rose or Catawba, but my two favorites are *Angelica* and *La Salle Special*. Both are sweet and strong (like me?) and are from Mont Lasalle Winery, which is an approved Sacramental Wine maker. Sacramental Wine is free from additives and preservatives and



are only made from grapes. So, no hints of apple or peach...grape, which is traditional to how wine was created in the time and place of Christ. I've always preferred stronger (18%) wine because it gives me a sense of security when sharing a chalice if the other priest has the sniffles or something.

FAQ 2 – What is the difference between altar bread (hosts) and oplatek (Christmas Wafers)?

Materially...nothing. Both are to be made of flour and water...that is it. The



FAQ 3 – Why do bishops wear such funny-shaped hats?

While I wouldn't disagree with the assessment to the shape of these hats, the answer makes sense and is curious at the same time. A bishop's miter is to represent the tongues of fire that rested upon the heads of those gathered at the Day of Pentecost. Believers present that day were endowed with unique gifts for new ministry – a bishop when wearing his miter is often doing things a priest cannot with the same power of the gifted Spirit.

FAQ 4 – Does a bishop HAVE to be seated for Confirmation or SHOULD he be seated?

Although the Ritual calls for the bishop to be seated (as it is the position of authority in the Catholic Church), we are also reminded that the Bishop is the chief liturgist of the diocese. Should he decide it is proper to stand to administer the Rite of Confirma-

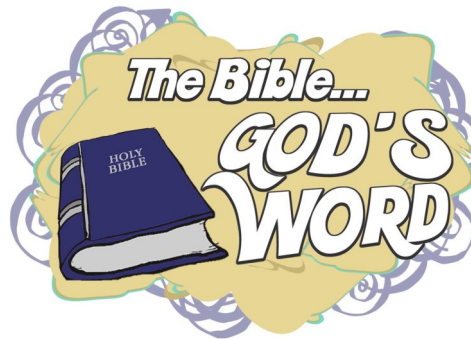
Fr. Jason's Article (continued)

tion, then it may well be the standard for the diocese while he is in office. The Church has many liturgical examples of "standards from which we deviate," but when a bishop does something different, it isn't really a deviation; it is simply the "updated practice."

FAQ 5 – Have you ever read the entire Bible?

I have – though in a way I wouldn't recommend. I had a desire to read it while I was in Seminary just to say I completed it and I cannot say everything stuck with me the way I desired. Teaching a bible study or spending a year preaching on the Gospel of Mark or slowly reading through a printed biblical commentary have all proved far more fruitful in understanding, remembering, enjoying, memorizing, and applying scripture.

Since Seminary, through daily scripture, Divine Office, personal study and



others, I would venture to say I have read through the entire New Testament a few times and perhaps 75% of the Old Testament. Some of that stuff is tough to read!

FAQ 6 – What is your favorite book?

My default answer is the Bible, but the book I have read the most by a pretty significant margin is *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. I read it first in 7th grade – it was assigned a class reading book and I read the entire thing the first day I got it. Taking the (actually good!) movie based on

the book out of the equation, I would guess I have read it between 15 and 20 times in my life.

FAQ 7 – Why don't churches have Communion/Altar Rails anymore?

If the NFL is a copycat league then the Church is as well. For example, in football, once a team wins a championship doing something slightly different than every other team, then most teams seem to copy that model. Same in the Catholic Church.

At the formation of the PNCC, the Communion Rail was standard- it served to separate the Sanctuary from the nave of the church as well as to facilitate a place for the faithful to approach and kneel in order to receive Communion.

In the Roman Catholic Church, resulting in changes that began at the 2nd Vatican Council, it was recommended in the United States that the faithful receive standing up and in processional form – negating the *need* for a rail.

Many of our parishes have adopted this as an acknowledgement of liturgical reform – that liturgy is a living and evolving practice, not a timepiece of anyone's particular childhood memory. Some parishes (PNCC and others) retain the rail for practical use, for aesthetics, or simply, no desire to remove it.

Fr. Jason



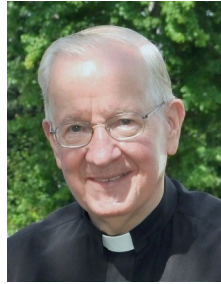
FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions



Blanket Workshop

The Mission Team recently decided to extend and regulate this prayerful branch of this group for the latter half of 2022. Monthly workshops are to take place in order to make prayer blankets that are distributed to those in need of them. Our "supply" had been running low and there never seems to be a shortage of those in need, so the group met on Tuesday, August 2nd beginning with Holy Mass. Mass was celebrated in the Traditional Rite and in loving memory of Very Rev. Frederyk Banas. He had recently passed away and was also Deacon Jim's childhood pastor at St. Adalbert's PNCC in Dickson City, PA. Deacon Jim preached about



some memories he had of Father Senior Banas, including a number of sermons given some 40+ years ago.

Afterward, bagels, coffee, fruit, and juice were served to fuel everyone for a morning of blanket making.



Collection

The Mission Team of St. Mary's put together a weeks-long collection, highlighted by well-made flyers and an attractive drop off area.

The collection was for infant supplies that would go to the benefit of children via a local agency. Last year, a collection was done for school supplies and the group felt that adjusting the target of our charity may prove beneficial.

Thank you to all who have been generous so far in offering of their treasure and a reminder that the collection lasts through September 25th!



Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary

The month of August features a number of opportunities to worship our Lord and to raise up the Blessed Mother of God, Mary, in prayer. On August 15, Holy Mass was celebrated with the blessing of herbs, firstfruits, and flowers on the Solemnity of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A nice crowd came to Mass this Monday morning for worship and for the blessing. The blessing with Holy Water was even done with

some home-grown hyssop! The top row of pictures is from this day.

At noon on Friday, August 26, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa was celebrated with Holy Mass as the altar of Mary was adorned and bedecked by our faithful ladies. Afterward, a nice lunch-

eon was prepared to honor our patroness Mary featuring a cold cut tray and some wonderful fellowship. Thanks to Cathy A. and friends for the preparation of the altar and of the luncheon.



Various Announcements

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER - For the month of September, we use the 1st Eucharistic Prayer based on the Traditional Canon.

LENDING LIBRARY - Our bookcase is set up for your enjoyment in the Fellowship Hall! Please visit and grab a book that might interest you and return when done.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - Took place over Labor Day Weekend. A write-up will be in next month's newsletter.

GOLF TOURNAMENT - A great time! A write up is in next month's newsletter.

ST. MARY'S - Is collecting gently worn (no rips or holes) used and new shoes for funds2orgs. Funds2orgs pays the parish per pair and then sells the shoes to micro-enterprises in developing nations to fight poverty. Proceeds from this collection will be used to supplement St. Mary's operating budget. Between now and October 31st there will be a collection bin in the fellowship hall for shoe donations - Please use the laces on shoes to tie them in pairs: non-lace shoes should be rubber-banded together.

NIGHT AT THE RACES - The parish is sponsoring a Night at the Races event on Saturday, September 24th at the VFW at 4305 Woodrow Ave in Parma (off of State). The event features "canned" horse races, a smoked pulled pork dinner and a lively evening of side-boards, horse-

naming, and constant action. Tickets are now available.

CHANGES AT MASS - the clergy and assistants will resume greeting the faithful after Mass on Sunday morning. Also, for collectors - please resume closing the gates at the conclusion of collection the offering.

MISSION TEAM COLLECTION - The Mission Team continues to sponsor a collection for local kids in need thru Sep. 25.

WOW! - What a weekend we enjoyed last week at our parish under the patronage of Mary! A robust hospitality room before a golf tournament day, donuts and coffee at the crack of dawn on a golf course, 18 holes in the heat, a full hour of appetizers and refreshments, a gigantic Italian Dinner, a Sunday morning of prayer, joy, and accomplishment and a breakfast fit for a bishop...or two! Thank you to all who made it all possible by your planning, your time, your willingness, and your devotion to putting on the best face forward of our beloved St. Mary's Parish.

SPOJNIA SUNDAY - Spójnia Sunday takes place on Sunday, September 25th. We will keep the members and the works of Spojnia and the Polish National Union in our prayers during Mass.

FIRST DAY OF SOCL - Will be on Sunday, September 18. We ask that parents and grandparents reach out to have as many children in our program as possible - we are praying for another enjoyable year.

ST. MARY'S BOWLING LEAGUE begins soon, 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 interested, please see Elaine Ploskonka.

CLAM(SKI) BAKE - On Friday, October 7, St. Mary's is holding a Clam Bake...with a twist. We call it a "Clamski" because the dinner is replacing the traditional chicken with kielbasa links. Info forthcoming!

CHOIR REHEARSALS - Will be starting up again shortly. Anyone who is interested in lending a voice is invited up to the choir loft at anytime, but if you'd rather get a few rehearsals under your belt, that is great too! Please see Chris Paulus with any questions.

DONATION BOARD - Have you seen the big white board with post-it notes featuring different items to donate towards the Night at the Races? Please take a gander next time through church and drop an item off!

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! We are looking for some ideas to have other people participate in what is Sacrament in the PNCC.

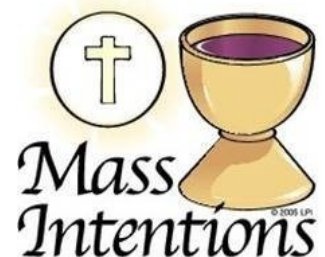
ACME - We are participating in the Acme "Community Cash Back" program which runs through Christmas Day. Turn in your receipts! St. Mary's receives 5% back from each Acme item!

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

Sept 4 - Stanley Dobrowolski of. by daughter Patricia Dotson
Sept 11 - Casey & Wanda Putynski of by daughter Carole D'Arcy
Sept 18 - George Stepanik of. by brother Gene Stepanik
Sept 25 - Mary Repasky & Irene D'Arcy of. by Mike & Carole D'Arcy

October 2 - Sophie & Martin Szpilka of. by son John Spilka
October 9 - Steve Temesi of. by wife Patty Temesi
October 16 - Open Intention
October 23 - Adolph & Helen Kasperczyk of. by son John Kasperczyk & family
October 30 - Dorothy & Bruno Tracy (Anv.) of. by son Randy Tracy

Please reach out to Fr. Jason to schedule Masses - Oct. 16 is the last open 2022 date.

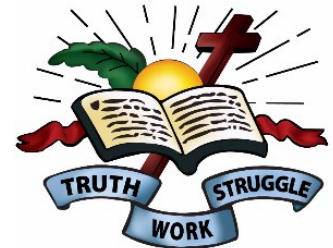
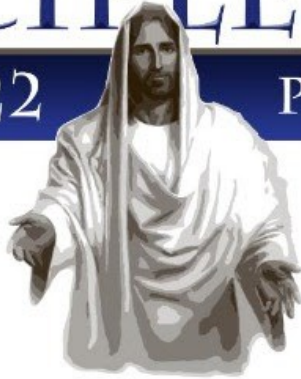


PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2022

PNCC



September 2022 – The Eucharist in the Blessed Sacrament

During the month of September as we continue our focus of Being Eucharistic People – we take some time to reflect on the important teaching of Church on the Holy Eucharist as found in paragraph 6 of the Declaration of Scranton. Enjoy the wonderful explanation of this teaching of our Church given by our Prime Bishop, His Grace, Anthony Mikovsky.

[Click Here to watch a video message by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky explaining our teaching on the Holy Eucharist in the Declaration of Scranton](#)

Scripture: (Acts 2:46-47) Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home, and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

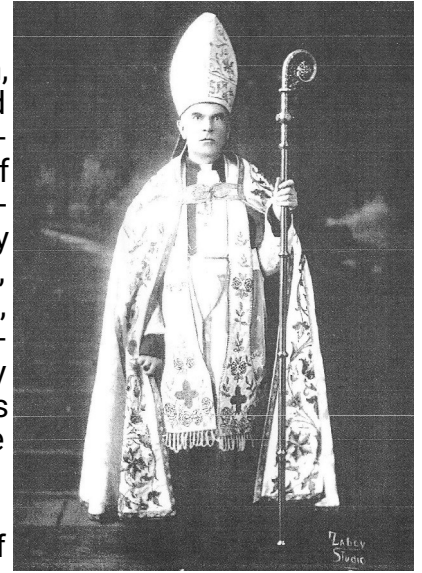
Reflection: The Declaration of Scranton formulated and accepted by the P.N.C.C. Bishops on April 28, 2008 and later accepted by the Clergy Conference and the General Synod, helps guide the Church in its relationships with other Christian bodies. The document has allowed us to enter into fruitful and real ecclesial relations with the Nordic Catholic Church in Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. The largest and most vital paragraph of this document speaks to our faith in the Holy Eucharist and the celebration of Mass, which must be a part of any agreement that we have between Churches.

Important aspects of our faith are spoken of within this paragraph: Holy Mass is “the true central point of Catholic worship.” We confess that we receive “the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.” When we gather for Mass we also know that we unite ourselves with “the one offering which Jesus Christ makes in Heaven.” During the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we participate in a true connection between heaven and earth.



PNCC Future Dir. (Con't)

This paragraph also shows us that when we gather at Holy Mass as a parish, there is also something else that occurs. It allows us to come together and unite ourselves to each other. The Holy Eucharist is "at the same time, a sacrificial feast by means of which the faithful in receiving the Body and Blood of our Savior enter into communion with one another (1 Cor. 10:17)." This reference to the First Letter to the Corinthians is recited during the Contemporary Rite of Mass, "Because there is one bread, we who are many, are one body, because we all partake of the one bread." This one body, our parish church, is also Christ present in the world today in another way. All then that the parish does, in the worship of God and in service to God's people, especially those within our local communities, is participating in the work of Jesus Christ in the world today. What we do at Holy Mass allows us to extend the presence of Jesus Christ, outside our Church walls..



Action Item: Read the Eucharistic (6th) paragraph of the Declaration of Scranton as well as the Scripture quotes cited. Spend some time at Holy Mass reflecting on what actually occurs when we gather to worship God and receive His Son in Holy Communion.

Schedule: Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

PNCC Future Direction continues to be on Facebook. Like, follow and share our reflections on Facebook. If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at FutureDirection@pncc.org to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

May God bless you; may our Lord calm the storms of life, may our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph intercede for us and all facing Christian Persecution and violence in our world. As we continue to celebrate Being Eucharistic People and also this month the Solemnity of Brotherly Love – let our discipleship reflect our love of God, neighbor and importance of receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

Member Bishops of the Union of Scranton upon the occasion of the Consecration of Bishop Flemestad of the Nordic Catholic Church (from left to right):

Sp. Rt. Rev. Thaddeus Peplowski, sp. Rt. Rev. Thomas Gnat, Rt. Rev. Nikolai Flemestad, the Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, the Rt. Rev. John Mack, the Rt. Rev. Sylvester Bigaj (no longer a bishop), sp. Most Rev. John Swantek, the Most Rev. Robert Nemkovich.



September Days of Note



September Birthdays

- 1st – Brett Spilka
- 2nd – Marge O'Connor
- 5th – Jim Ploskonka
- 7th – Elaine Ploskonka
- 7th – Sharon Skiba
- 9th – Marcus Todorovich
- 14th – Pam Nemec
- 16th – Andrea Grmovsek
- 17th – Rose Kronen
- 27th – Allison Suarez
- 27th – Roland Ploskonka



September Anniversaries

- 1st – Josh & Demi Bengston
- 2nd – Vince & Karen Colwell
- 9th – Pete & Marge O'Conner
- 26th – Steve & Barbara Fesz
- 26th – Tom & Cherie Kugler

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"Where Do All the Teachers Go?"

Though not religious, a cute poem from a child's mind.

Where do all the teachers go
When it's four o'clock?
Do they live in houses
And do they wash their socks?

Do they wear pajamas
And do they watch TV?
And do they pick their noses
The same as you and me?

Do they live with other people?
Have they mum and dads?
And were they ever children?
And were they ever bad?

Did they ever, never spell right?
Did they ever make mistakes?
Were they punished in the corner
If they stole the chocolate flakes?

Did they ever lose their hymn books?
Did they ever leave their greens?
Did they scribble on the desk tops?
Did they wear old dirty jeans?

I'll follow one back home today
I'll find out what they do
Then I'll put it in a poem
That they can read to you.

By Peter Dixon

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Bob Kaczmarek
Bill Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
George & Linda Makovicka	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Julie L.
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Joseph Bischoff
David Micka	Jeff Lukas
Ed Pierson	George Bennett
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	David Vaden
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Mike Matis
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
Fr. Tom Sheha	Tom Slomka
Geri S.	Ben Soltis
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzuroff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Kelly B	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Wisniewski	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Claudette Lukas
Mike Pescitelli	Kathy Robertson
Mary Cawley	Richard & Edna Samelson
Jim Giles	Tammy Teubl
Bill Zychowski	Loretta Baldwin
Donna Kidd	Paulette Lilli
Azriel G.	Joseph Zubel
Marilyn Girard	Courtney Austin
Stephanie Milla	Shannon Alberino
Jayden Pieciak	Sophie Mae
Jeremy Steinbrick	Katie Stallbaum
Marcia Klein	Kim Penney
Barbara B.	Patrick Kmitt
Michael McGivern	Daniel Morgan
Barb & Jim Lukas	Renee Lukas
Roseanne Ziefle	Shauna Smullen

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

