

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2021

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Remembering Saints...

We at St. Mary's PNCC in Parma, OH get to enjoy something that, perhaps, we have never given more than a few minutes of thought – the patronage of the greatest of Catholic Saints, Saint Mary.

The Church does a good enough job of reminding us of her role – as intercessor, Mother of Christ, as the vessel of honor, and whatever other titles we use to note her place in God's story



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and plan of redemption for all people.

November 1st is All Saints Day, and I thoroughly enjoy reading up on Saints throughout the year. Though I've been in this priestly life for a while now, I still uncover saints I've never heard of, only to find out how wildly popular he or she may be to a particular culture or occupation. I would like to go through some as reminders of those who have lived the defined life of a saint: a life lived worthy of our emulation.

Vincent of Saragossa was Spain's first martyr, who died in 304AD. He was venerated across the Roman Empire for centuries, with every Christian community associating his name with Jesus Christ. As a Christian prisoner, he was starved in jail, but his conviction remained strong while his body grew weak. He was placed in stocks, stretched in racks, and roasted on a gridiron, left in atrocious physical condition to starve in his cell...while never denying Christ. Martyrdom was near-synonymous with early Christian sainthood, and stories of this type of defiance served to rally Christian Communities.

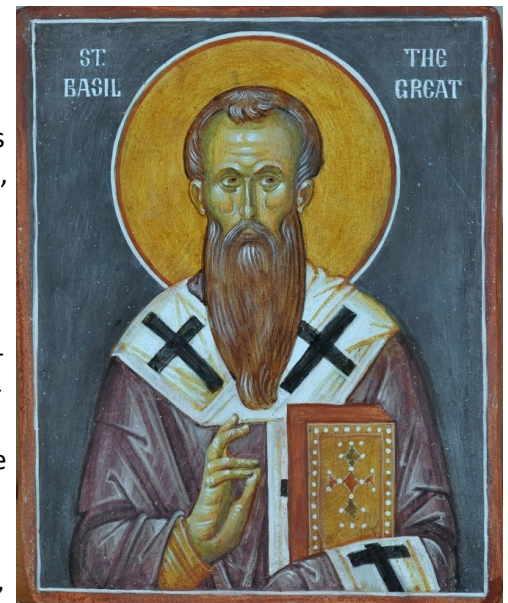
Vincent of Saragossa is the patron of wine-growers, wine and vinegar-makers, and Portugal. His feast day is January 22.

Elizabeth Seton was the first American-

born saint, born to a wealthy Episcopalian family in 1774 in New York City. She married even wealthier at 19, but was left widowed with 5 children at the age of 28. Her husband died while they traveled abroad in Italy, with Tuscan Nuns caring for her and her children.

This led to her conversion, and in 1808 she took to caring for poor children in Baltimore. This led to her taking vows as a nun, and growing the American Sisters of Charity, taking care of children, the poor, and teaching in parochial schools.

Her feast day may be celebrated on January 4 and she is the patron saint of Catholic Schools, widows, and seafarers.



Basil the Great is another author of a Eucharistic Prayer in our worship. He

Fr. Jason's Article (con't)

lived from 330-379 AD. He was born in Cappadocia, Turkey, one of 10 children in a family where his grandmother, both parents, and 3 siblings all attained sainthood. A cold heart would read that sentence while thinking "must have been easier back then!" while a heart filled with the Spirit would recognize that feat!

Basil was a scholar who battled a potential schism by the teachings of Arius, who denied the divinity of Jesus. He preached against this and for traditional Eastern Christian views until winding down and taking up the life of a hermit. He established the first monastery in Asian Minor, which focused on Christ through labor, charity, and routine. Basil is the Patron Saint of Russia, monks, and bishop's vestments. His feast day is on June 14.

Hippolytus is one we should feel some kinship with, as our 2nd Eucharistic Prayer in our Polish National Catholic Eucharistic Worship bears his name. He authored *Apostolic Tradition*, the renowned record of Christian worship during the Roman era and where we get so,



The martyrdom of St. Hippolytus

so much of how Christ was worshipped in the liturgy of the Apostles and the Early Church.

Hippolytus had quite an edge to him, criticizing bishops of Rome as they seemed to be taking on more power than deserved. He was thrown in a quarry prison, where he would be martyred (by being drawn-and-quartered) in 236 AD alongside a former pope, Pontian. Tough times to be a Christian, even amongst brothers and sisters in the faith! Hippolytus is the patron saint of horses, Italy, and his feast day is August 12.

Catherine of Siena (b. 1347) lived an incredibly fascinating life. She was a mystic- a person who experienced visions and she was a Christian writer. She was the youngest of 25 children and her first mystical vision was that of Christ at age 6.

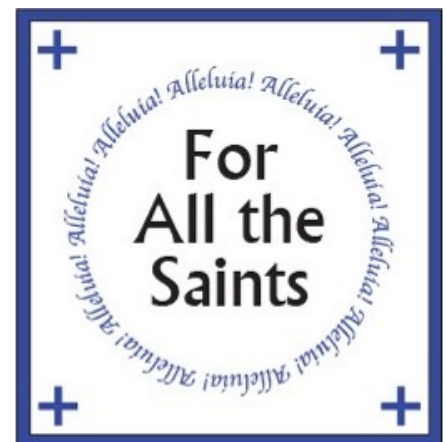
She stuck out in her large family because of her devotion to prayer, even at a young age. She used to say a Hail Mary on each step while ascending or descending stairs, which seems adorable until you consider there may be a dozen or so impatient siblings in line on those stairs!

The Blessed Virgin called her to Christ in 1366, leading her to preach around her home of Siena. In 1375, she claimed she felt the pain of the stigmata (the wounds identified with those Christ suffered during the Crucifixion). However, no one else could see them...until they became clearly visible after she breathed her last in 1380. Catherine of Siena is the patron of Italy (many are!) and nurses and her feast day may be celebrated April 29.



The saints I chose to remember are a mix of some perhaps who are known... and some that probably are not. Elizabeth of Seton wasn't made a Saint until the 1970's and doesn't officially "make" our Polish National Catholic Calendar (since we organized in 1897), but her history is important to American Catholicism. There are double-digit saints named "Catherine", so it is good to now know one of them!

The Commemoration of All Souls directs us to a more intimate knowledge of those who have left this earth. In prayer, may we remember these, all saints, and all departed throughout this month of November. Fr. Jason



National Clergy Conference

The National Clergy Retreat of the Polish National Catholic Church took place October 25-27 at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY. HMRC is the See of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese.

Father Jason and Deacon Jim traveled from Parma to represent St. Mary's over the 3 days. There were papers presented on liturgy (what we do when we publicly worship), doctrine (what the church believes beyond the Word of God), dialogue (our official communications and meetings between other Christian Denominations), policy (Clergy hospitalization, clergy salary & benefits) and more.

We were also blessed to be ministered to by Dr. Bill Keimig, a Roman Catholic Assistant Director at a Catechetical Institute, who specializes in, well, ministering to the ministers. He provided an interesting way of how we should

look upon God the Father as a loving and caring dad...or daddy. He spoke to



other facets of the Trinitarian relationship as well, while providing many an example from his personal and professional life.

Of course, the Conference was replete with fellowship, with both nights ripe with conversation and laughter, all catered by the Cathedral's YMSofR. Much appreciation to all!



Food Prep—Kolaczki & Pierogi

Food planning was part of the parish plan throughout the month of October.

The kolaczki team was on-board early, meeting the first weekend of October to get ready for the Thanksgiving sale (advertised in our cover page!)



Pierogi making was done in advance of our Polish Food Sale (see below). We had some new people lend a hand and were able to finish the job to have our delicious product available to the public.



Polish Food Sale

On Saturday, October 16, St. Mary's opened its doors for the Polish Food Sale. It was the first "cold food" sale in about a decade and featured a few raffle items and a bake sale.

The event was very well-attended and provided a fresh feel for fundraising than the drive thru dinners that we have been doing. Thanks to all who prepared food in advance of this event as well as planned and executed an enjoyable Saturday shindig at our beloved parish.



Animal Blessing

St. Mary's continues to hold the tradition of holding the St. Francis of Assisi animal blessing on the Feast Day of St. Francis, October 4th.

Although the day threatened a little moisture, we were treated to a calm early evening, with services kicking off at 6pm, aided by a chorus of "barks" and "meows". Fr. Jason was assisted by Deacon in not only offering prayer, but offering individual blessings to each of



the animals that came to be in the presence of the Almighty. As always, it was nice to see people from the neighborhood bring their animals, as well as parishioners and even some pet-less folks who came to pray and

enjoy the show! Thanks to Elaine Ploskonka for providing goodie bags for the canine and feline worshippers.

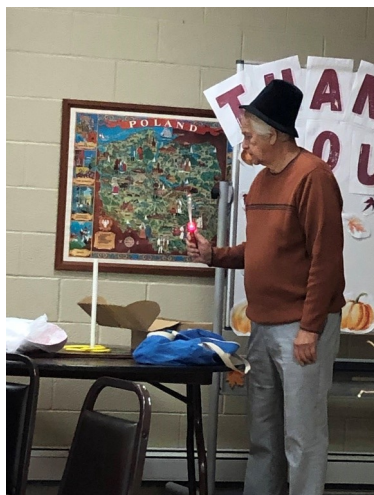


Halloween Party

Halloween fell on a Sunday this year! As the big day approached, the members of our parish were polled to see whether they wanted to participate in a little morning "Trick or Treating" for our parish children. The answer was affirmative and a plan was hatched.

After 9am Holy Mass on the 31st, the kids got bedecked in their costumes and were presented to the congregation at coffee hour. Many of our parishioners were wearing smiles and giving out humongous amounts of candy to each of our 9 Halloweeners.

Games and other activities were enjoyed by the kids, with direction from Ms. Evonne Pryer. Thanks to all who participated and made the atmosphere festive and quite memorable.



All Souls Cemetery Service

The annual All Souls Day Cemetery Service took place Sunday, October 31st at noon under beautiful skies at the Sacred Heart of Jesus PNCC Cemetery on W 54th Street. Fr. Jason led the remembrance service of 5 stations, assisted by Deacon Jim. His remarks were reflective of his encounters with the way other cultures take on remembering the dead and how the church teaches us to do so.

Much appreciation to all who worshipped God and remembered their departed loved ones as well as the departed Greater Cleveland PNCC souls reposing in the Seniorate Cemetery.



Clergy Appreciation

On Sunday October 10, the PNCC Solemnity of the Christian Family, the Mission Team (and others from the parish) took time to honor those who serve at the Lord's Altar after 9am Holy Mass.

A cake was presented, as well as gifts to Fr. Jason, Deacon Jim, and our two devoted acolytes, Damien and Makenzie. The youngest of the parish children served as couriers of these cards and gifts! With smiles galore and renewed vigor for the Lord, our worship team has continued to work hard to provide a reverent and worthy atmosphere of prayer for our people.

Thank you so much for remembering us and keeping us always in your prayers.



Various Announcements

CHILI COOK-OFF & SQUARES— The annual YMSofR Chili Cook-off takes place today, immediately following 10:30am Mass. Anyone is invited to make a pot of chili and bring it to share at this event – winners will receive a prize – attendees will receive chili! We hope you come and share this open-to-all event with us and enjoy the watching the Browns play on the road versus the Bengals. Squares for the football game are- 2 squares for \$5. See Ron Ference.

COMING TO COMMUNION – This question has popped up a few times recently and I wanted to answer it- though we will continue to distribute Communion in family groups and coming up the aisles like we have for the past months, I wanted to invite everyone to receive as is most comfortable – when you come before Christ, you may stand (as everyone has been) or kneel. We aren't back to "lining along the rail" just yet, but if you prefer to kneel to receive; by all means!

ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCES— Our cemetery service took place last Sunday and

the first reading of the prayer list took place Tuesday, November 2- All Souls Day. Envelopes are available around the church for you to fill out and remember your loved ones. All submitted names are remembered in prayer during Sunday Mass on Nov. 7, 14, & 21, and Mass to close November.

KOLACZKI—Church-made kolaczki are available to order for Thanksgiving. Please see or call/text Patti 216-801-1063 or Susan 440-781-7912. Flyers are near the church mailboxes.

FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE – This past week, we fed 74 people in our parking-lot ministry, bring the year-to-date total to 3071, with an average of around 70 fed per week.

ACME—We are participating in the Acme "Community Cash Back" program. Please submit your receipts in the bucket!

RECTORY AVAILABLE – The rectory is available for rental. It is a 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath 2 story bungalow and we want to offer it to parishioners and friends/family/acquaintances of parishioners

first. Please speak to Fr. Jason, Elaine Ploskonka, or Steve Fesz with info.

CLOTHES COLLECTION –Bring your clothes in this week! The Annual YMSofR Clothing Collection runs through November.

YMSofR SOUP SALE – The men of Branch #29 request some help in parishioners taking home quart containers and bringing them back filled with soup! The soup will be frozen and set aside for the YMSofR Soup Sale on Sunday, November 21 (going on in tandem with the Kolaczki Sale). Soup will be \$9 per quart or 3 for \$25.

CHRISTMAS CHILD – Our collection runs til Sunday, Nov. 14. A reminder- boxes filled with gifts, school supplies, etc. & assembled by age/gender are then delivered to a child somewhere in the world. \$9 must be included with each box, or a \$9 donation can be made sans box. The SOCL has a "shoebox party" in place of SOCL on 11/14.

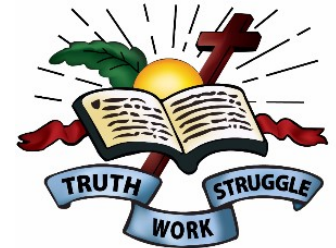
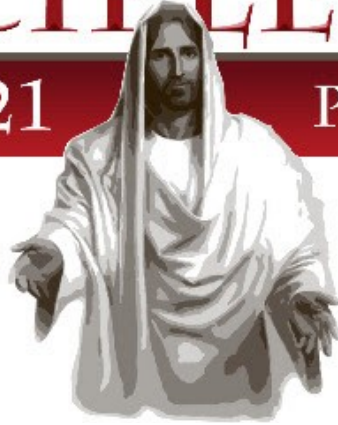
HEALING MASS – We have reintroduced a Mass of Healing at St. Mary's that offers the Sacrament of Anointing to conclude Mass- our next Mass will be Friday, November 19 at 9am.

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2021

PNCC



November 2021 – St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

On this Solemnity of All Saints as we begin the month of November in the Year of our Lord 2021 we focus on St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr.

[Click here and enjoy](#) the video on Saint Stanislaus and a reflection by Dr. Shirley Mietlicki.

Scriptures for Reflection

2 Corinthians 4:7-15; 1 Peter 3:14-17; Luke 9:23-26; John 15:18-21

Reflection & Action Item:

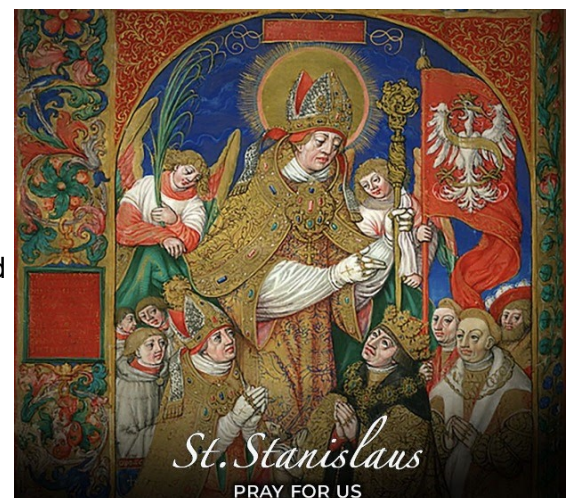
Stanislaus of Krakow (1030-1079) is the patron saint of Poland. In his episcopal ministry he stood up to and challenged the king for his cruelty towards people. This eventually led to the king killing him with a sword.

Lord God of mercies, for whose honor Your Bishop Stanislaus fell to the sword of his persecutors. Grant that, as we reverence the memory of St. Stanislaus who safeguarded the poor and outcast and gave his life defending your sacred Gospel, we may persevere, strong in faith, following his example of self-sacrifice and fortitude. What ways can you continue to be strong in faith even in times of trial?

Offer support and prayer for someone who has been persecuted for living their Christian Faith. Also, as we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let us show our thanks to Almighty God by helping others who are in need.

This month, schedule: Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education or, Mass and Event (Breakfast) for those who serve

Song Recommendation: “Scars in Heaven” by Casting Crowns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCc7TCmKcwQ>



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father all powerful, Your gifts are countless and Your goodness infinite. We come to You, O God, offering our most humble and heartfelt thanks for the many blessings we have received from You. Open our hearts to the needs of others, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service. Teach us to express our thanksgiving not only with our lips, but in all that we do. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

NCC Future Direction is on Facebook. Like us and follow our updates on Facebook too. 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.

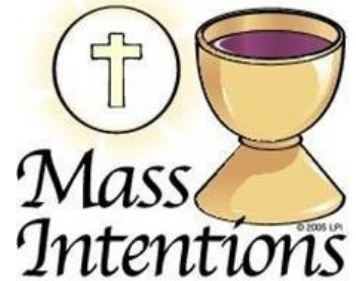
May God bless you; may our Lord calm the storms of life and may our Blessed Mother intercede for us. Have a blessed month and show your Thanks to God by sharing His Love in faithful witness and action

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee
Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

- November 7 – Bob Hunek of. by wife Claire
- November 14 – Hanna Pryer of. by husband +Len & family
- November 21 – Ann Stepanik of. by son Gene
- November 28 – Alphonse & Adele Blazer of. by Al & Karen Blazer

- December 5 – Jack & Stella White (78th Anv.) of. by daughter Patty
- December 12 – Raymond J. Kovach Jr. of. by Cheryl Repko
- December 19 – Robert & Louise Cygan of. by Pam Chesar & Bob Cygan
- December 26 – Alphonse & Adele Blazer of. by the family



9am Mass intentions are filled for 2021. * Fr. Jason will take intentions for 2022

Sp. Paul Wankowski

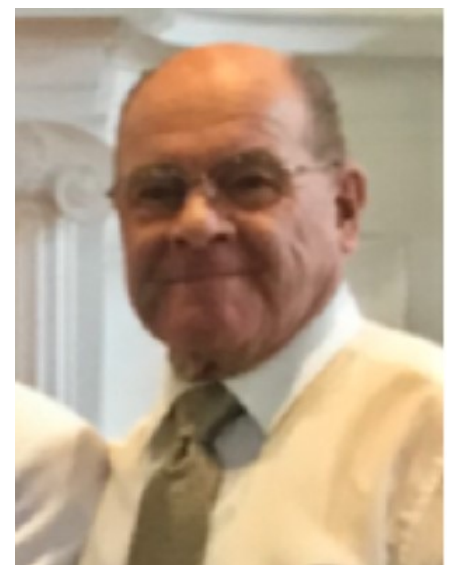
Paul S. Wankowski, age 82 of Parma passed away peacefully October 18, 2021 surrounded by his family.

Beloved husband for almost 62 years of Helen (nee: Charvat) and loving father of Michael Wankowski and Sharon Wheeler.

Proud grandfather of 7 and great-grandfather of 8. Paul was a devoted family man putting them first above all else. Aside from cooking for his family and spending time with them, he enjoyed being out-

doors especially fishing and golfing. Paul was a parishioner of St. Mary's and spent several years as caretaker of the outside property of the church.

Paul was a printer and retired from the Cleveland Press and American Greetings. All services will be private.



November Days of Note



November

1	-	Brady Soltysiak
5	-	Ron Ference
6	-	Alice Petrie
7	-	Kathleen Beres
7	-	Mike Wisniewski
11	-	Mike Matis
15	-	Mary Ann Loschelder
16	-	Mike Paulus
18	-	Eileen Kasperczyk
19	-	Bill Glatzer
21	-	Krista O'Connor
22	-	Josephine Ference
24	-	Jeff Dreger
25	-	Michael Petrie
27	-	Vicente Suarez
29	-	Barb Baranowski
29	-	Eliza Dreger



November

5	Vicente & Alison Suarez
9	Marty & Sue Bengela
28	Dale & Patti Dotson

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

"A Thanksgiving Poem"

Thou hast, with ever watchful eye,
Looked down on us with holy care,
And from thy storehouse in the sky
Hast scattered plenty everywhere.

Then lift we up our songs of praise
To thee, O Father, good and kind;
To thee we consecrate our days;
Be thine the temple of each mind.

With incense sweet our thanks ascend;
Before thy works our powers pall;
Tho we should strive years without end,
We could not thank thee for them all.

By Paul Laurence Dunbar



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Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Barbara Baranowski
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	Carol Hreha
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	David Vaden
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill
Michael Cosevin	Helen Cummings
Laina Dachtal	Wendy Andrzejewski
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar
Cecelia Hall	Caroline Kunes
Linda Marks	Thomas Lill
John & Anne Nemetz	Rhonda Smith
Kenny Ploskonka	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 Dzurhoff	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Kelly B	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Wisniewski	Cathy Pieciak
Nan Cramer	Bp. John Mack
Janice Bielecki	Bp. John Swantek
Mary Cawley	Richard & Edna Samelson
Jim Giles	Tammy Teubl
Wanda Heffner	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
Mike Matis	Jeff Lukas
Ronald Tiffe	Mike Pescitelli
Al Piniacki	Bob Kaczmarek

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