

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

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

**April 2019**

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## Holy Week

In September of 2004, I entered Savonara Theological Seminary after getting my BA at University of Hartford in Connecticut. Move-in day was hot, my wife-to-be in just 7 more short years helped me move in, my parents were both there sniffing back tears, and then, just like that, everyone left.

Solitude really is part of the priestly journey. It is *supposed* to be. A connection must be made with God Almighty in these times, a greater prayer life must be established, and the acknowledgment that being a priest can be lonely is made.

Luckily, that was and is never a problem with me. I've written multiple times about the self-motivation a priest needs. And none of this is new! We don't need to turn but a few pages in the gospels of Christ to note when He wanted, when He desired, when He *needed* to be alone.

In those first few days of Seminary, people couldn't be nicer. Being a priest's



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son had afforded me the opportunity to meet a few people here-and-there, and my time serving on the Board of the National United Youth Association spread those wings a little further.

After a week at seminary, faces became familiar, and one in particular, who offered a snippet of advice that I have thought about, quoted, and wrote down each of the ensuing now 15 Holy Weeks since those first days at seminary. It was sp. Bishop Bilinski, then just Father Stan, who said the greatest moment of relief as a priest comes when you lock the doors of the church after the last service is over on Easter Sunday.

I heard him say it a number of times since then as well, and I can tell you how true it is.

When Holy Week is celebrated in full by the priest at a parish, he offers up the widest ranges of emotions of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To put it in a nutshell: the opening glory of Palm Sunday, the delivery of the Passion Gospel with the change-of-tone at Mass; the Mass of Chrism with the Bishop that celebrates Priesthood; the majesty of the Last Supper, immediately followed by the marked arrest; the death of Christ, with services acknowledging that loss; and the somberness of the Satur-

day Liturgy, leading into the new fire and light.

It is up-and-down, back-and-forth! Unfortunately, in a society that doesn't cancel work and school for each service, not many people attend, and not many people experience that same wave after wave of different feelings.

We do get to share together that wonder of the Easter Holiday. If one were to attend Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with no Holy Week services, it would connect wonderfully and still make perfect sense.

But we, the church, try to offer up as much as we can for our people. From those Lenten Services to retreats to the full shebang of Holy Week. We, the priests, *need* it. It is that reflection of Christ's life and emotion, of which we share whenever we administer a Sacrament. It *has* to impact our souls and emotions—or else, really, we just aren't doing the whole priest thing correctly.

So yes, we look forward to locking that door after Easter— and perhaps, you'll read this after the glory of the Resurrection. But we reflect on the loneliness of Christ, on the path he had to take on his own, on the little sacrifices that led to the Big Sacrifice. And since we men often don't do great with the whole "feelings" thing, maybe your priest will be a bit more irritable than usual during Holy Week—pray for him! Because he'll be praying for you.

*Fr. Jason*

## Chaplain Aide Damion

On Wednesday evening March 20, St. Mary's very own Mr. Damion was named Chaplain Aide to his Scout troop.

Damion is a devoted acolyte at our 9am Mass, attends School of Christian Living and often talks shop with the clergy before Mass begins. He has occasionally sought the advice of Rev. Greg Gronn, who serves on the National Scouting Commission of the PNCC.

We are very proud of Damion, and happy that his life of worship and service at St. Mary's has carried into his scouting life.



## Various Announcements

### PASSIONTIDE

Passiontide begins Passion Sunday, April 7, the last two weeks before Easter. It commemorates the solemn turn the church takes in the Lenten Season as Christ prepares for the Passion. You'll notice the crucifixes in church are covered, that the organ is muted at times, and that "Lord for us, your wounds were suffered" replaces "Glory be to the Father..."

### OPEN TRIP

The Love of God Sodality invites everyone to attend with them a trip to Lakewood to visit the Museum of Divine Statues on Sunday, April 28 after the Potluck. Please see Patty Temesi for info.

### RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER

Flyers for our next restaurant fundraiser are available near the parish mailboxes. It is also on the back cover page of this newsletter mailing. The event takes place Tuesday, April 23 at the Parma Hts. Bakers Square from 7am-10pm: the perfect array of hours to eat twice! 20% of your check will return to St. Mary's.

### PICK A NUMBER!

On Palm Sunday, we will be selling our final envelopes and pulling numbers. There are only 4 envelopes left, so it will be your last chance – best of luck to everyone, and thank you for your support!

### POLISH PARADE

The parade for Polish Constitution Day takes place on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary's will be marching in the parade. If you are interested in marching with the group of our parishioners and friends (and 4 legged friends!), please see JoAnn Long or leave a message at the Parish Office.

### SODALITY MEMBERS

In accord with practices across the PNCC, you'll notice members of the Love of God Sodality approach the front pews at every Mass now – this falls in line with the Sodality's devotion to the presence of the Blessed Sacrament – the timing of the lighting of their candles coincides with the presence of Christ at Holy Mass.

### PHC FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who has donated these past weeks – items collected will be brought to the Parma Hunger

Center in support of our local community.

### SPRING POLKA DANCE

On Sunday, May 19, we will be hosting a springtime Polka dance, featuring "Those Guys". Doors open at 1pm, with music from 2-6pm. Admission is \$11, with a cash bar and light fare available to eat. For info, call Mary Ann 216-409-4254.

### READING OF THE PASSION

A reminder that on Palm Sunday, we hear the Passion Account from St. Luke's Gospel. This long, emotional gospel sets up the entirety of Holy Week.

### CHILDREN IN PROCESSION

As a reminder, we ask that you allow your children to process in the processions of Palm Sunday (9am Mass) and Easter Sunday (7am Mass). We also ask children to be present for the service on Good Friday at 3pm

### LENTEN CROSS

The Mission Team is sponsoring the Lenten Prayer Cross. It has been placed in the back, parking lot side corner of the church. Please take on this Lenten discipline of devotion and increased prayer and plan on placing your prayers upon it.

## Bella's First Communion

After a period of intense study, our dear sister Bella received her Sacraments on the weekend of March 9 & 10.

Bella was under the tutelage of her "Tato", Sub-Deacon Jim Ploskonka. He taught her weekly for the last year or so. Fr. Jason, on the rare occasion, would pop in for a quick quiz.

On Saturday, March 9, Bella had her First Penance with Fr. Jason, and rehearsal was held for the next day's event. At the 9am Mass, she received for the first time, followed by her parents, blessings for her brothers, and other family in attendance.

Before she received her First Communion, she was interrogated by Father Jason during the homily. To everyone's bemusement and delight, Bella was able to answer every question asked, from the 7 sacraments to Commandments to Books of the Bible to even the open ended: "Why should

you receive your Holy Communion."

As is tradition, after she received her First Communion, her immediate family followed as well. Fr. Jason noted that it wasn't but a couple of years ago that mom and dad were married on the same kneeler in church on a hot summer day.

The PTO, like clockwork, then held a small party for Bella after, featuring a beautiful cake.

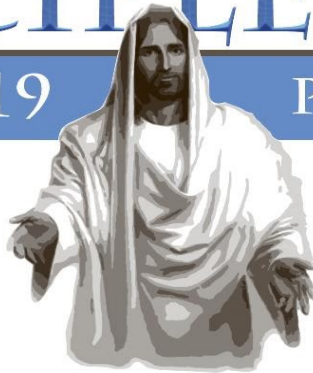
Bella can often be seen with her mom and dad in the back corner of church, trying to keep control of her two little brothers, Maximilian and Walker.



**PNCC Future Directions Update**

# DISCIPLESHIP

2019 PNCC



April 12, 2019



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

How have you shared this Lenten journey with your individual and parish families these past weeks? As we continue to focus on Discipleship - are we willing to commit to walk with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this most important Holy Week?

We are about to embark yet again on a beautiful journey where we are blessed through the sacred Liturgy of the Church to share in the Salvific events of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us not take these opportunities for granted but rather embrace them with gratitude and respect. Commit, together with your whole family, to make the time for Jesus as He will become present to His people through the beautiful Liturgies of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday, with the blessing of palms and procession, recalls the triumphal entry of our Jesus into Jerusalem. We rejoice as we receive the palms but know how quickly the hymns and shouts of Hosanna change to crucify Him as this year the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke will be proclaimed during the Holy Mass of Palm Sunday.

Clergy and Faithful of our dioceses will be gathering around their Bishop for the majestic Chrism Mass – where the Holy Oils used throughout the dioceses are blessed by the Bishop and the priests renew their vows of service to Christ and His Holy Church.

Holy Thursday begins the Paschal Triduum and celebrates the Last Supper during which our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist – giving us His presence in His Sacred Body and Precious Blood that we receive. We also experience the Mandatum – with the solemn washing of feet reminding us that we are to follow the example of Jesus and are not here to be served but to serve. The Liturgy concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, the vespers of Holy Thursday and the stripping of the Altars.

On Good Friday the Church gathers to remember the death of our Lord Jesus Christ upon the Cross on the hill of Calvary. We read the passion according to St. John, adore the Cross upon which hung the Savior of the world and receive His presence in the Eucharist during the Liturgy of the Presanctified. We are called to spend time in reverent prayer at the symbolic grave of our Lord and in the presence of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the blessed Sacrament.

On Holy Saturday the Church blesses fire, water and the Paschal Candle (the symbol of the Risen Savior – Christ as the light of the world) – the exhortations are read instructing the faithful and an Easter Vigil Mass may be celebrated. This is a beautiful moment for baptisms of people entering the Christian Faith. Have your Easter Food blessed either at your parish or by your pastor coming to your home – share this specially blessed meal with your family after Resurrection Mass on Easter Sunday. We then gather on Easter morning for Resurrection Mass and procession – celebrating Christ's glorious Resurrection from the dead. Proclaiming that Christ is Risen – He is risen indeed – Alleluia! Alleluia!

May we approach these sacred Liturgies of the Church with great reverence and solemnity. We have a wonderful opportunity over these next days to share with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the events of salvation. Commit yourself to take advantage of the opportunity we have and approach these beautiful Liturgies of the Church with reverence, respect and allow them to draw us closer to Jesus and our brothers and sisters in the faith. Sincerely yours in Christ,

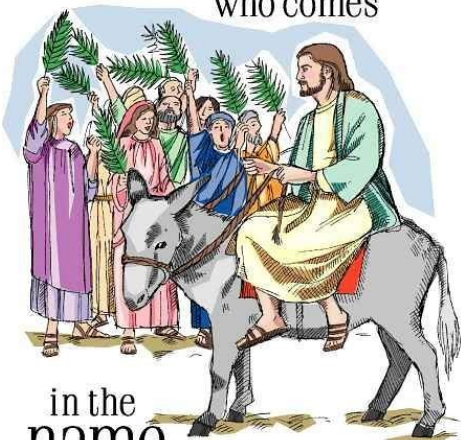
**PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee**  
Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*  
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*



## Bishop Hodur: Sermon Notes on Palm Sunday— April 5, 1914

*The following words have been taken from the book Hodur: Sermon Outlines and Occasional Speeches, published in 1999 via the Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church.*

“Blessed is the king  
who comes



in the  
name  
of the Lord!”

Luke 19:38

One of the scenes from the Holy Scriptures which makes a most powerful impression on us is the triumphal entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. This scene makes such a powerful impression on us through its contrast and simultaneously its simplicity.

Who is this who is riding into Jerusalem? It is the King of Kings and the Lord of heaven and earth, and He is

riding into His city on a burro surrounded by a small crowd of His humble people.

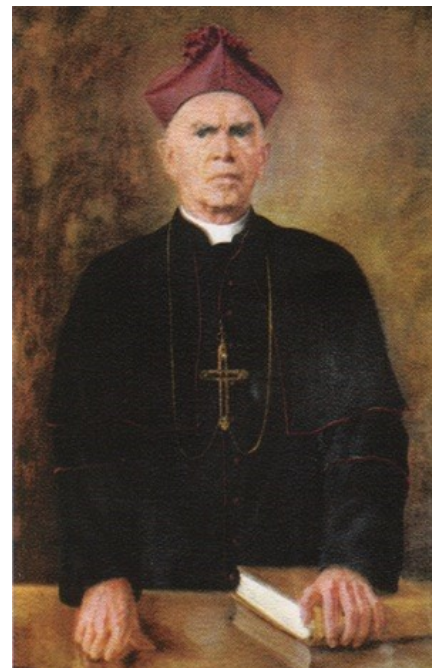
The Jewish nation gathered in Jerusalem on the occasion of the Passover wanted to see Christ the Lord to give Him honor.

Some had heard of His miracles, others had heard of his limitless wisdom, goodness, and mercy. Many thought that He is the Messiah foretold by the prophets, therefore that it is nothing strange that they wanted to meet Him personally, to look upon Him, to hear His speech.

News came that Christ is coming from Galilee to Jerusalem city, that on Sunday morning He will be at the north gate. The streets swarmed. All moved towards the part of town where the entrance of God's emissary was expected.

And indeed He rides in. A small crowd of poor people is moving and among them is Jesus Christ on a donkey.

This is Jesus Christ, the Messiah of the world? Surprise lasted but a while, and then from the throats of these people burst forth a cry of happiness and joy. “Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”



Why, however, is Jesus Christ sad? Why does He not bless the people? Indeed, He weeps and says: O Jerusalem, if you had known...the things that are for your peace (Luke 19:42”).

Because Christ knew that this superficial reception and adoration is brief. These same people later will shout, instead of “Hosanna”, “Crucify Him!”.

So changeable is our human nature. But we adherents of the Polish National Catholic Church shall stand faithfully at the foot of the cross of our Master, Jesus Christ.



## April Days of Note



### April Birthdays

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Helen Wankowski
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Michael Oleniacz
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Karen Barnes
- 16<sup>th</sup> – John Michalczyk
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Robert Mondok
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Megan Kasperczyk
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Sheri Ference
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Julie Koehler
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn Burger
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Natalie Kasperczyk
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Nick Sivik



### April Anniversaries

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tom & Karen Bedocs
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Zbigniew & Elizabeth Staranowski

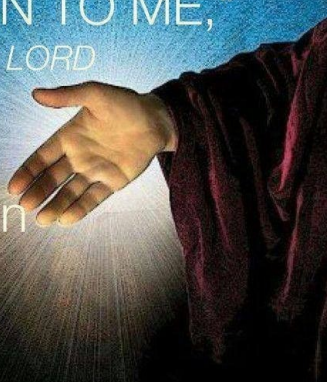
*This is what the LORD ALMIGHTY says...*

**"RETURN TO ME,"**

*declares the LORD ALMIGHTY,*

**"and I will return to you."**

*Zechariah 1:3*



## Good Friday

Good Friday,  
When they crucified Jesus,  
the day became night  
as darkness was sent from above.

So far from the Father  
lonely, forsaken  
yet, so near in His infinite love.

When they mocked Him and  
flogged Him,  
they were unaware  
of the darkness  
that clouded their mind.

The sin of the world  
was put on His shoulders  
as He offered His life for mankind.

When they thought they had killed  
Him,  
they had taken His life,  
He had given it out of free will.

In the outside world  
no-one knew what had happened  
far away, on Golgotha's hill.

But, the Father in mercy  
and endless compassion,  
looked down from on high  
on His Son.

Who committed His Spirit  
in the hands of the Father,  
and in triumph cried out:  
It is done!

*by Mrs. B. de Jonge*

## Our Prayer List

Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:

Bill & Pat Glatzer	Barbara Baranowski
Bill & Joan Kastak	Anna Dawidziuk
Craig Atherton	John Spilka
Johanna Markiewicz	Mary Ann Loschelder
Ralph & June Zaun	Len Pryer
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Polly Gajda	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Louise Cygan
Helen Budney	Bruno Tracy
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Petrie
Amy Dreger	Patti Dotson
Elizabeth Starnawski	Jack Spilka
Elaine Repede	Marlane Oleniacz

Please pray for our family and friends:

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

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY  
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

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