

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

July 2022

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Our organist, Chris Paulus, worked with the choir of St. Mary's as the weather began to warm in 2022, especially after Easter. However, as the host parish and city, a hotel, hall, food, and more were put into place before this. Two choir meetings took place per week, rehearsal or planning, in the weeks leading up to the weekend. Quite a bit of work was put in!

The typical plan for a choir preparing to participate in the concert includes a number of songs that each choir sings together as well as rehearsing pieces that will be sung with the other Circle Choirs of the Diocese. Of course, no one's schedule will ever jive with that of the entire group, so Chris was quite gracious in planning for multiple options per week.

By Friday morning, everyone was ready to rock! The hospitality room had been stocked, hotel reservations were made, and Pokrova Hall was readied for the arrival of everyone.

People began trickling in throughout the day, enjoying that the hospitality room had already been

prepared. That evening, many began to arrive at St. Mary's for the scheduled Convention.

The Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, Bishop-Ordinary of the Western Diocese, offered an opening prayer and stayed for the meeting. Other clergy in attendance were Rev. Jason Soltysiak, Deacon Jim Ploskonka, and Deacon Jonathan Meus. Bruce Kaniewski (Milwaukee, WI) led the proceedings as the chairperson of the W.D. United Circle Choirs. The Convention and meeting was quite lengthy, as it was covering two full terms rather than one. However, some great work was done and some devoted Polish National Catholics were elected to serve.

The hospitality room was opened for a bit again, though the hour was late. Good times were had, as stories of years past were reminisced over cookies, milk, and potato chips. A schedule was distributed to each Circle Choir (Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland) to inform each of when their re-

A Very Concert Weekend!

The United Circle Choirs of the Western Diocese held its first Convention and Concert since the onset of the pandemic beginning on Friday, June 24th and concluding on Sunday the 26th.

St. Mary's began preparing for this event a few years ago, with the meeting minutes from a couple of early meetings in the summer of 2019 put in the cooler for a couple of years. Once the world became a bit more comfortable with attending events in person, the planning stage commenced once again!



Opening Article (con't)

hearsal time would be at the hall on Saturday.

After a full night of sleep, the hospitality room offered a breakfast featuring yogurt, muffins, cookies, granola bars, and fruit. Working around the rehearsal schedule, people enjoyed some calm before the storm of the concert that included time in the pool, visits to local Cleveland landmarks, and perhaps an afternoon siesta.

The doors to Pokrova Hall opened at 6pm, with the choirs to kick-off at 6:30. A nice crowd arrived to support the singers. Deacon Jim served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, warming the crowd a bit, welcoming each Circle Choir, and welcoming our bishop to say some words of welcome and blessing.

Then the music came alive! The Chicago Circle sang first, followed by Detroit and Milwaukee. Deacon Jim then added a little extra "oomph" to his introduction of the hometown Cleveland Circle. Following the Cleveland Circle's set, all of the other circles were invited back up to the stage to sing the combined numbers. A lively set brought the crowds to great applause. After, a presentation of flowers to the diocesan bishop and host pastor was made by some of the youngest in attendance. Bishop Jerry and Father Ja-



son were called forward and given beautiful bouquets by a couple of happy kids. Though, the smiles of those singers on stage may have been even bigger than the ones the boys wore!

After the singing was over, the back wall was opened to the rest of the hall to allow for seating of the singers and guests as well as to allow the band to prepare to perform. Food was served for all in attendance, as well as beer and wine at an open bar. After everyone got a few bites, the band began and the dancing commenced. Various polkas and oldies were sung for everyone's enjoyment. Once the set concluded, the first half of the choir auction took place, with many seeking to support the Circle Choirs on this blind auction. Prizes varied from kids' toys,



kitchen supplies, wine, and more. The band did another set and the second portion of the auction followed. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance, with many noting that this was their first "big public event" since 2020.

As any good weekend concludes, ours was to conclude appropriately, with the celebration of Holy Mass. As the evening was late the night before, the



Opening Article (con't)

parish scheduled Mass an hour later at 10am. This was Bishop Rafalko's first visit to St. Mary's since his consecration to the episcopacy, and he was welcomed appropriately – with the song “Witaj” as well as the traditional bread and salt.

Bishop Rafalko was celebrant of Holy Mass, with Fr. Jason Soltysiak and Fr. Greg Gronn serving as concelebrants. Deacon Jim assisted as well. This was the premiere of “Word of God Sunday” across the Polish National Catholic Church, so Deacon Jim proclaimed the Gospel from the center of church within a gospel procession. Bishop offered the homily, highlighting the day's scripture's call to discipleship as well as addressing the power of the Word of God as Sacrament. He also gave thanks to the family of +Bishop Jan Dawidziuk, as Bishop Jerry was honored by their graciousness in allowing him to use his crozier and bugia (bishop's candle) for the celebration of Mass.

All were invited to a breakfast in the basement hall after Holy Mass concluded. As we prepared to eat, it was noted that there was quite the occurrence taking place – the children of eight different Polish National Catholic priests were present for Mass and breakfast that day. Each said a few words about their respective fathers: Michele Misiewicz-Barry remembered Father Roman Misiewicz, Elizabeth Starnawski remembered Bishop Jan Dawidziuk, Brady Soltysiak spoke about Father Jason Soltysiak, Hannah Bilinski remem-



bered Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Father Jason Soltysiak spoke about Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak, Mike Wisniewski remembered Father Senior Anthony Wisniewski, Deacon Jon Meus remembered Father Henry Meus, and Elizabeth Kowalczyk remembered Father Mendrek.



A delicious breakfast was then enjoyed by all in attendance on what was a very warm Sunday morning. The weeks-long garden cart raffle ticket was pulled, with Martha Repede winning the prize. Thanks to Steve Fesz for building and donating it!

The mood was light and visitors began stretching their legs for a long drive home. After the appropriate goodbyes were said, we were left with a sunny summer Sunday afternoon, humming all the music we heard on a melodious weekend.



WD Diocesan Council Meets

On Saturday, June 4, the Council of the Western Diocese met via Zoom for its annual meeting. Fr. Jason is the clergy representative of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese. Deacon Jim is an at-large appointment of the Bishop-Ordinary on the Council.

Bishop Jerry led the meeting and offered many constructive and supportive words for the diocese. The meeting took a few hours and was successful.



Pentecost Sunday & Closing of SOCL

Sunday, June 5 was not only the celebration of the great Pentecost Solemnity of the Church, but also the closing of SOCL.

Fr. Jason concelebrated Holy Mass with Fr. Greg in red vestments, the color of Pentecost. They were assisted by Deacon Jim, in red dalmatic, who also proclaimed the Holy Gospel.

The clergy paused before our closing hymn to have our 2021-2022 SOCL closing exercises.

Mrs. Natalie Soltysiak and Mrs. Barb Bogzevitz were our teachers this year. Mrs. Barb ("Miss Barb", to the kids, though happily married for 52 years!) called up "her boys" first, with each of them wearing tremendous smiles after studying the "A-Z's of Church."

Mrs. Natalie called up her students next, with the kids a bit less-raucous than the previous group. Both Barb and Natalie gave their respective students a gift on behalf of the PTO of the parish.



Then the teachers were presented with gifts as well for their dedication in bringing Christ to our kids for a full school year. Our graduates, Marzena & Kyrsten were honored as well.



Pentecost/SOCL (con't)



Parish Trunk Sale

We are starting to get a hang of this Trunk Sale thing! On Saturday, June 4 from 9:30am to 3pm in our parish parking lot, parishioners and friends set up shop on multiple parking spots to sell their wares in a community setting.

The day was picturesque, and not as hot as the previously scheduled weekend. Lunch was served by Steve on the grill, selling out of his world-famous hamburgers as their reputation had preceded them amongst the attendees. Baked goods were also available immediately upon entrance inside the church.



Corpus Christi & Father's Day

Sunday, June 19 was the Sunday within the Octave of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. For our humble parish, this gave us an opportunity to let the world know of our love of Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The weather cooperated and we were able to process the Sacrament outside to conclude Holy Mass. At each corner of the church building, the Love of God Sodality set up altars to receive the

Blessed Sacrament as the assigned Gospel would be proclaimed from each. Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg concelebrated this Holy Mass, with both proclaiming the gospel at each corner. Our acolytes were quite busy as well, setting up the procession, while our choir provided Eucharistic Hymns between each altar.

The blessings continued after Mass, as there were to-go lunches for all the guys of the parish in addition to the coffee hour. Lunch included a delicious sandwich with all sorts of goodies to let the men know the love of God and neighbor. Thanks to the Love of God Sodality for preparing this treat.



Men's Spiritual Retreat

The 5th Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat took place June 15-18 at Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA.

Father Jason, Charles Repede, and Greg Hodor attended the retreat, traveling the 6 or so hours to be with men of the church in prayer, fellowship, and devotion. Deacon Jim couldn't attend but remotely provided a homily via Zoom

during our Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi

It was a beautiful weekend, devoted to the Eucharist throughout. There will be a longer, proper write-up in the next issue of "Rola Boza/God's Field", the official publication of the Polish National Catholic Church. More pictures are up on the United

YMSofR Facebook page if interested. We hope some more men may consider traveling next year!



Various Announcements

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER - For the month of June, we use the 4th Eucharistic Prayer on p. 88, the Dutch Old Catholic 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.

CONVO 2022 - Is hosted by the Western Diocese of the PNCC and takes place Monday-Friday, July 18-22 at Valparaiso Univ in Indiana. Fr. Jason, Patti Dotson, and 3 parish kids plan on attending so far.

NEW MASSBOOKS - Have been purchased, blessed, and placed in your pews. You'll notice a more rugged (and washable) cover and some areas of the book a little more streamlined. They were donated

by PNU Branch 112 in loving memory of Joan Spilka and were blessed at our June Parish Comm. Meeting. As they now contain the Act of Spiritual Communion (page 102), we will no longer recite it during Holy Mass.

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER - The next event will be our annual trip to Swenson's in Seven Hills on Broadview Rd. It will be from 5-8pm on Tuesday July 26. See the flyer on the inside cover of our newsletter!

GOLF TOURNAMENT - The United YMSofR Golf Tournament takes place Saturday, September 3 and will be hosted by St. Mary's. For non-golfers, we will be hosting a wonderful homemade banquet (like a few years back) that afternoon at the parish, which will include an open beer/wine

bar, multiple main courses, appetizers, and more. The dinner will be the same price as in 2015 - \$25!!

SOCL APPRECIATION - SOCL Students, families, teachers, and substitute teachers (and family) are invited to the Soltysiak residence on Friday, July 29 for an appreciation dinner for the 2021-2022 year of study. Please see Natalie Soltysiak to rsvp or for any questions.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY - The new section of a parish Bible Study has just started on "The Beatitudes". It is open to all!

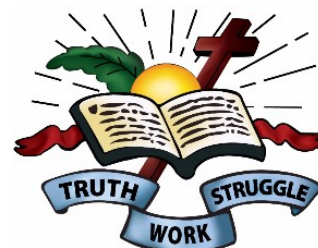
PIEROGI MAKING took place June 30-July 1 with pierogi made for upcoming summer activities. Thank you to all who donated the time to be with us. We are trying something different with more/shorter pierogi sessions. Please keep an eye out for the next one.

PNCC Future Directions Update

DISCIPLESHIP

2022

PNCC



July 2022 – Saint Tarcisus

During the month of July, we focus on St. Tarcisus “the boy martyr of the Eucharist” who loved and protected the Holy Eucharist. So much so he gave his life to protect the presence of Jesus in Holy Communion. Listen to his story as told by some Altar Servers gathered at the 2022 Eastern Diocese Altar Server Retreat.

[Click Here to watch a video message by Altar Servers at the 2022 Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat](#)

Scripture: *Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

Reflection: In our celebration of the Holy Mass, our altar servers play such an important role. Consider just how much they do in serving God and the Church by assisting our priests and deacons during the Sacred Liturgy. They carry the cross and lit candles during processions, carry and handle the incense in procession and during the Mass, present the wine and water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts, wash the hands of the priest, ring the bells during the consecration, and hold the paten as the faithful receive the Most Sacred Body and Blood of our Lord. Our altar servers participate in the Mass by joining in the spoken responses and the singing of the hymns and music of the Mass. In doing all of these things with piety and attention, though, our altar servers fulfill a commission that we may sometimes overlook: they set a good example for us of true, loving piety for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

St. Tarcisus, known as the “boy martyr of the Eucharist” was a young Christian in the Church of Rome in the 3rd Century, whose love and reverence for Christ’s true and abiding presence in the Eucharist inspired him with the courage to give his life for our Lord! He is an ideal Patron Saint for our altar servers and an inspiration to all. His traditional feast day is August 15 but is secondary to the Solemnity of the Dormition and Assumption of the Blessed Mother. St. Tarcisus, pray for us.

Action Item: Reflect on the life of St. Tarcisus and his love and care for the Holy Eucharist. How do you assess your own reverence for the Holy Eucharist in how you choose to live your life?



PNCC Future Dir. (Con't)

Schedule: Sometime this month recognize all of your parish's altar servers: list their names in the bulletin, acknowledge them at the end of weekend Masses, pray for them by name during the General Intercessions, etc. Have a reception/picnic for the whole parish to thank them for their service and example of reverence to the Holy Eucharist.

Song for Reflection: Brandon Heath - See Me Through It

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8anLMKB9N8&list=RDq8anLMKB9N8&index=2>

Prayer for our Altar Servers – 2014 PNCC Ritual

For all the Altar Servers of our Parish and our Holy Polish National Catholic Church, that they may deepen their commitment to serve God and their neighbor, we pray to the Lord.

God of Glory, Your beloved Son has shown us that true worship comes from humble and contrite hearts. Bless our brothers and sisters who have responded to the needs of our Parish and who commit themselves to Your service as Altar Servers. Grant that their ministry may be fruitful and our worship be pleasing in Your sight. We ask this through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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 – allowing the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in His Sacred Body and Blood to lead and guide us always!

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

July 3— Elaine Tiffe of. by son Jeffery

July 10– Timothy M. McGinty of. by Cheryl Repko

July 17– Margaret Sobocinski of. by husband Clarence

July 24– Margaret Sobocinski of. by husband Clarence

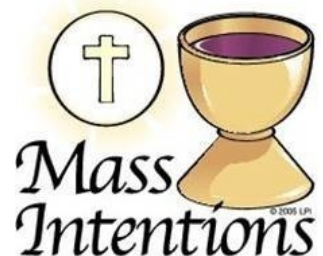
July 31 – Charlotte Hess of. by son Tom Kugler

August 7– For the health of Kathleen Sobocinski of. by Clarence Sobocinski

August 14 – Bob Hunek of. by wife Claire Hunek

August 21– Dale Tracy of. by brother Randy Tracy

August 28 – Open Intention



Please reach out to Fr. Jason to schedule Masses – Open 2022 upcoming dates:
August 28, Sep 25, Oct. 16 & 23, Nov 6 & 27.

June Days of Note



July Birthdays

- 4th – Jolanta Misiewicz
- 16th – Chris Paulus
- 21st – Father Jason
- 21st – Zbigniew Starnawski
- 22nd – Sara Long
- 24th – Jennifer LeMessina
- 25th – Martha Repede
- 25th – Chester Warzala
- 30th – Barbara Fesz



July Anniversaries

- 14th — John & Andrea Grmovsek
- 15th — Nate & Amanda Ploskonka
- 20th — Michael & Carole D'Arcy
- 21st — Jim & Elaine Ploskonka
- 24th — Jim & Pam Nemec
- 27th — Mike & Chris Paulus

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"Veronica" July 12 Saint Day

How many of us familiar with this name,
During the last hours of Christ,
some ladies accompanied Him,
Very few men were there,
Most of the disciples ran away from Him,
due to fear,
True heart,
didn't bother about the impediments,
Veronica had a true heart,
she looked at Jesus,
With a piece of cloth,
she cleaned
the bloodstained face of Jesus,
The imprint of Jesus's face was visible
on that cloth,
Most Christians feel
that they have the imprint of Jesus in
their heart,
If His face,
imprinted in their heart,
they can't fall for a sin,
Jesus' face
was imprinted in Veronica's heart.
Blessed are the people who have
Jesus' face imprinted in their heart.

By Biji Dominic



Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer | Bob Kaczmarek |
| Bill Kastak | Anna Dawdziuk |
| 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 |
| Chester 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 | 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 |
| Gerl 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 |
| Ed Pierson | Sauna Smullen |

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

