

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

December 2024

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"It's the End of the World as We know it...and I Feel Fine!"

*"That's great, it starts with an earthquake
Birds and snakes, and aeroplanes
And Lenny Bruce is not afraid*

*Eye of a hurricane, listen to yourself churn
World serves its own needs
Don't mis-serve your own needs"*

Do those words look familiar at all? I am quoting a nearly-40 year-old song by the band R.E.M. called "It's the End of the World as We Know It". It is off their 1987 album "Document" and while I was only 5 years old when it came out, I've certainly heard it dozens of times in my life. It has been in some of my favorite movies, like *Superbad*, *Zombieland*, and *Independence Day*.

The song weaves back and forth with some present-day (20th Century) and scriptural day visions of what "the end" might all look like. It is a pop song, so it includes odd references, including celebrities with the initials "L.B." But it certainly borrows from scripture.

The latter-half of November serves as a transition each year from the period of Ordinary time that features the ministry



ESCHATOLOGY

of Christ to His eschatological teachings. This actually then continues with how we look at the Solemnity of Christ the King (the final Sunday of Ordinary Time) and then the first portion of the Advent Season. We get Christ's teaching, then we get a few more points of view to allow us to consider those things that compromise "the end."

I'll first launch with the big caveat: we will never know when. On Sunday, November 17 (Ordinary 33, the penultimate Sunday of Ordinary Time), Jesus reminds us that here on earth, he doesn't know either. Mark 13:32 says: "Now concerning that day or hour no one knows—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son—but only the Father."

No need to mark our calendars then, right? But...there are a few things we should know to mark, per scripture...even in our earthly lifetime doesn't come close to intersecting with them.

Signs of the Apocalypse! An intimidating phrase, but what are they, and where are they from? Well, to start, we look at the Book of Revelation...also called the Book of the Apocalypse or the Apocalypse of St. John.

This is the toughest book of scripture to comprehend and decipher: it is based on visions, it is prophetic and cataclysmic. It tells of something that is nearly irreconcilable to the understanding of the human brain: the end.

Let's go through some (not all!) of the major scriptural signs from Revelation, so we know what we should know. We will work with the 7 Seals, as noted in Revelation. Only the Lamb of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is worthy and able to open these seals. All of this has been "revealed" to the apostle John, who is writing this "apocalypse".



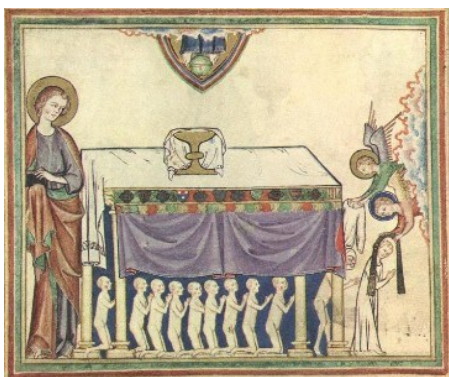
The Four Horsemen: In Revelation 6, the Lamb opens up the first of the 7 seals, and out comes the first of the four horsemen.

The first carries a bow, has a crown and rides a white horse, symbolizing conquest (perhaps the Antichrist). The successive seals brings about a subsequent horse. The second carries a sword, riding a red horse, symbolizing

Opening Article (cont)

war, conflict. The third, a food merchant, rides a black horse and symbolizes a worldwide famine. The fourth horse is pale, ridden by Death, and accompanied by Hades, with the authority to kill a quarter of the earth. Covid was bad enough, at about 1% of our 8 billion, let alone a full 2 billion killed!

Horsemen are kind of straightforward, especially the explanation. As we continue through Revelation 6, we get to verse 9, which begins the 5th Seal: souls crying out from under the altar. The prevailing explanation is that these are the souls of the martyrs of the faith and the first part of their reward from God, a white robe and a promise of more. These martyrs are thought to be those who achieved that crown during the time of the first four horsemen, and/or mostly thought those between Christ's first and second coming.



The 6th seal is a bit more visual, beginning in Revelation 6:12: A violent earthquake, blackened sun, blood-like moon, falling stars, a split sky, and the falling and movements of mountains and islands. This seal is a picture of all the power that God has over the cosmos— that the apple-cart of science can and will indeed be upset, just as it was at Creation. As natural disasters are an unfortunate part of human existence, a confluence of a number of these often lead to people of

even more confidence than Jesus Christ on earth (see previous comment on not knowing the day or hour) pointing to their scriptures and proclaiming “the end.” Scripture also tells that the breaking of the seal will lead to people hiding and an extended period of waiting.

While chapter 7 of Revelation tells of who will be saved by the blood of the Lamb, and lists numbers from the Old Testament Tribes as well as the vast multitudes, we then move on to the 7th seal beginning with chapter 8 of Revelation.

The 7th seal was opened and then...nothing. A half-hour of silence in Heaven. I cannot even imagine what that truly means in the way of time. 2Peter 3:8 says “But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” However long, after the silence came angels to offer prayers with the saints, which then brought about more natural disasters upon the earth, and then the seven trumpets.

The trumpets are listed from Revelation 8:7-11:19. Their results included:

1st: Hail, fire, blood, with a third of the earth burned up.

2nd: A burning mountain thrown into the sea, with a third of the sea becoming blood and a third of the sea creatures dying.

3rd: A great star called Wormwood falls to the earth, with a third of the waters becoming bitter, causing many to die.

4th: A third of the sun, moon and stars are struck so that a third of the day and night are without light.

5th: A star falls through the earth, opening a door to the underworld, allowing demons to be among the earth.

6th: Plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur kill a third of humankind.

7th: Salvation: a heavenly worship scene where the kingdom of God is announced...but more woe is to come, even with this announcement.

These are but some of the signs. If you are interested in going further, just open to chapter 12 of Revelation, where I paused. If you are not as interested, well, I get it! Those signs, condensed as I explain them, are a tough read. But we know they result in the new Heaven and the new Earth. Revelation is a true segue to Advent, which anticipates the Incarnation of Christ, made known in Bethlehem's manger; it celebrates Christ's continual and Sacramental presence in our lives, and it anticipates what His second coming shall be.

The second to last line of all of scripture sums it up. With the pictures of falling cosmos and images that can shake us up a bit, our faith tells of our salvation, and the Word of God reminds us always: (Rev 22:20b) “Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

Fr. Jason



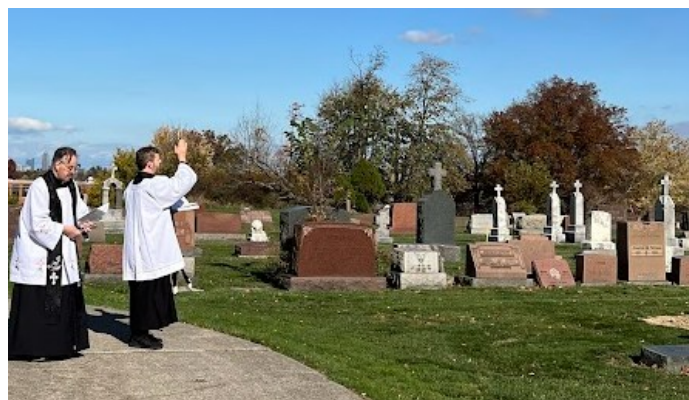
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Commemoration All Souls Day

All Souls are commemorated throughout the month of November at St. Mary's, a neat tradition where the submitted names of the deceased are read and prayed-for after announcements and before the beginning of each Sunday Mass. Names are submitted throughout the month, and the departed bishops of the PNCC and departed pastors of our parish are remembered as well. On November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, the entirety of the list was read at the conclusion of Holy Mass.

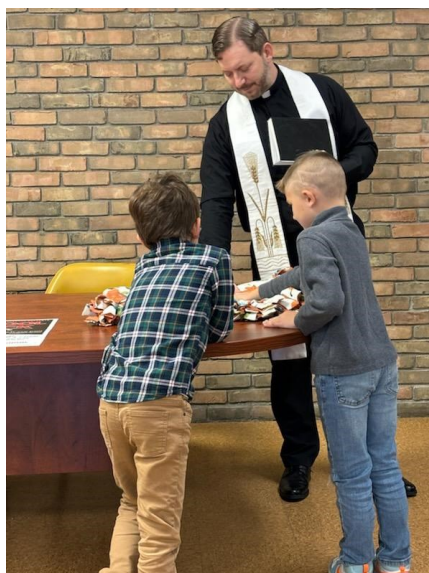
Our All Souls Cemetery Service took place on the Commemoration of All Souls, November 2 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery on West 54th Street. Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg led the service of the five stations and subsequently

blessed every grave on premise. Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Prayer Blanket

On Sunday, November 3, a prayer blanket was blessed by Fr. Jason (with very good assistance) for a friend in need of our prayers and best wishes. God bless the work of our Prayer Blanket Ministry team.



Sunday, November 17

While Holy Mass on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, November 17, taught of the eschatology of our Lord, we enjoyed a number of things after Holy Mass.

Josephine turned 101 years old! While we had a big blowout of a party last year for 100, we kept things a bit more subdued (while still in awe!) for year 101. She was feted with gifts and welcomed with donuts (one of her favorite treats...secret to longevity?) that spelled out the number "101".

Meanwhile, the crew who was in charge of our Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" did some quality control on boxes, labeled them, packaged them, and put together some others as well. Over 40 boxes were donated by the parish and sent out that week, led by event coordinator Evonne Pryer.



Food Ministry Meets

The Food Ministry Team met on Wednesday, November 20 before the weekly serving of food in our parish parking lot to those in need. Amongst the topics discussed were the continuation of weekly ministry through at least the early parts of 2025, a smaller meal served on Christmas Day, and an overall "temperature check" of the group. Thank you to all who continue to work for the betterment of our community, the building up of the good name of St. Mary's, and building up treasure in Heaven.



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Mission Team Workshop

The Mission Team of St. Mary's meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 10am for a cup of coffee, bite to eat, fellowship, and a monthly project. Sometimes the project will be making prayer blankets to one day be blessed and distributed, while other months bring forth other ideas.

On Tuesday, November 5, the group met to make Thanksgiving Day cards to distribute at local nursing homes. Over 100 cards were crafted and written to bring a little bit of extra joy to the first holiday of our "holiday season." Keep up the good work!



Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day Holy Mass was celebrated on Monday, November 11th. We always have a few people that pop in for our Monday morning 9am, celebrated in the PNCC's Traditional Rite, and this day, our prayers were centered on our revered nation and those who served it.

To conclude Holy Mass, prayers were offered at the foot of our Patriotic Wreath, donated by PLAV Lt. Col. Matt Urban Post #164 and a patriotic hymn sung as well. May God continue to bless the veterans of our parish and of our beloved United States of America.



Pierogi Making

On Saturday, November 30, after a half-week of purchasing, dough & filling prep and other preparations, parishioners and friends came together for a Saturday of pierogi making. The things needed in order to make it a successful pierogi venture held true this Saturday: good conversation, not a lot of broken pierogi, enough people at each "battle station", and enough breakfast items and a nice lunch to go home happy. The only negative on the day was the Ohio State football team forgetting how to run their offense while we were pinch-

ing the last of the pierogi! Alas, our holiday pierogi for the parish are prepared.



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Various Announcements

NEW LITURGICAL CYCLE – The First Sunday in Advent brings about change – vestments, a wreath, prophetic readings, and a season of preparation. It also brings about “Liturgical New Year: Cycle C” that is, the gospel begins in a new point of history (preparing for the coming of Christ), and is from St. Luke after hearing from mostly St. Mark this past year.

COOKIE SALE- As seen in the flyers in last week's bulletin, our 2nd Cookie Sale (\$12 per lb.) takes place 11am-2pm Sat. Dec. 14th. Bakers are still needed – please see Elaine Repede to lend a hand or for any information on the event – it was a sell-out last year, so plan accordingly!

BAKER INFO- A quick reminder to bakers that an ingredient list (just a list, not amounts) is needed to be submitted to Susan B. per the health department. This can be done asap. Drop off for your baked cookies before Saturday's event can be done on Friday from 10am-Noon or between 5-6pm or Saturday morning by 10am.

KOLACZKI – Thank you for the great support for our Thanksgiving Kolaczki Sale—it was a total sellout! See attached flyer on the inside newsletter

cover for Christmas Kolaczki ordering info!

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION – We have begun our annual Advent Food collection to support our own Food Ministry and Parma Hunger Center. Each week of Advent, we ask for a different type of item: Week 1: Veggies & Fruit. Week 2: Carbs (rice, pasta) Week 3: Baby Foods. Week 4: Proteins (beans, jerky) and single-use foods (spaghettios, soup, stew, etc.).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – There will be a Parish Meeting to elect officers for the upcoming 2025 year after 9am Mass on Sunday, Dec. 15. See pg. 7 of this newsletter for details on how to participate.

ADVENT W.O.G. – An online Word of God study takes place the 3 Tuesdays of Advent, beginning with Dec. 3, leading to Christmas. This short study will be at 8pm on the Zoom app – See Fr. Jason.

MISSION TEAM TREE – The Mission Team has raised a tree in the back corner of the church for their annual Christmas Collection. This year, they are seeking baby items: diapers, lotions, wipes, baby powder, bibs, pacifiers, burp cloths, onesies up to 18 months, etc. Please see a member of the Mission Team with questions.

PTO NEWS – The PTO sponsors a Christmas Basket Raffle at the Christmas Party

on December 22. Please plan on supporting the baskets beforehand and enjoying the party and a visit from Santa!

2025 MASSES – Fr. Jason is taking Mass intention requests for 2025. As always, call, email, text, or try to speak to him after Sunday Mass.

FAVORITE HYMN? – Do you have a favorite hymn, be it from another church, radio, or wherever that you would like the choir to consider learning? The choir wants to know your favorites! Drop a note to our Choir Director Chris so we can try new things.

WE CONTINUE – To participate in Acme's program, “Community Cash Back” which runs through February. Turn in receipts!

BIBLE STUDY NEWS – We continue our study of “Old Testament Characters” into 2025. It is never too late to join up with us! The Bible Study schedule is always printed in the weekly bulletin.

CLOTHES COLLECTION – Our clothes collection box is up & remains til Jan. 2025.

HOME VISITATIONS – Please contact Fr. Jason if you, a family member, or a parishioner you know would like a home visit.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

December 1 – Stella & Jack White of. by daughter Patty Temesi

December 8 — Penney & Roharik Families of. by Ron & Nancy Roharik

December 15 – Anthony Soltysiak (birthday) of. by brother Fr. Jason

December 22 – Departed members of the Blatnik family of. by the Repede family

December 24/25—No intentions taken

December 29—Len & Hanna Pryer (Wedding Anv.) of. by daughter

Evonne Pryer

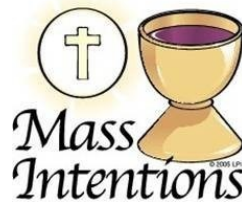
January 5 – Love of God Sodality Members, living and departed

January 12 — Open Intention

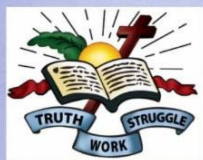
January 19 – Open Intention

January 26 – Open Intention

Fr. Jason has begun taking intentions for 2025! St. Mary's continues to be impressive in how her parishioners remember their loved ones in weekly intentions!



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We kindly ask you to
invite family and friends
to sign up for the...



Western Diocese PNCC Word of God Study Presented on Zoom

Tuesday Evenings

7:00 p.m. Central Time
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Facilitated by

Very Reverend John Kowalczyk, Jr.
Reverend Jim Ploskonka

To be added to our contact list, please send an email to
wdpnccnews@gmail.com
Indicate which emails you wish to receive:
Word of God Study and/or our General Diocesan email list.

2024 Advent Word of God Study: The Gospel of Saint Luke

We prepare during this Advent Season with a study of the primary Gospel for the new Liturgical Year, Cycle C.

This Word of God Study will introduce participants to the Gospel of Luke, addressing foundational topics such as authorship, timeline, sources, literary structure, and Luke's distinctive theological focus. Through this study, participants will explore how Luke emphasizes Jesus' outreach to societal outcasts, the significance of Jesus' prayer life, and core themes like the Infancy Narrative, the Twelve Apostles, the Sermon on the Plain, and key parables. A special focus will be placed on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, particularly the unique teachings that Luke presents in the final chapters.

The Zoom link and informational slides are provided below. Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89808203258?pwd=h9Bf9OSsaDisF7TtgjLB1vhsLZtvp4.1>
Meeting ID: 898 0820 3258 Passcode: 034179

Through your participation in this study, you will become familiar with and reference Gospel passages reflecting Saint Luke's unique theological perspectives. We pray you will join us and invite family and friends to join us.



\$6/LB
*FRESH NOT COOKED

ST. MARY'S CHOIR

Christmas

KIELBASA SALE

FRESH PICK UP DECEMBER 7TH
11:00 - 3:00 PM

CALL/TEXT
(216) 232-8346
TO ORDER

ST. MARY'S PNCC
5375 BROADVIEW RD | PARMA | 44134

December Days of Note



December Birthdays

- 1 Nick Paulus
- 7 Michele Hess
- 8 Dale Dotson, Sr.
- 8 Bill Zychowski
- 10 Joan Edington
- 17 David P. Micka
- 18 Steven Wisniewski
- 19 Ethan Long
- 20 Jessica Moritz
- 22 John Dankanich
- 24 Dale Dotson, Jr.
- 24 Susan Boehnlein
- 25 Eileen Matteson
- 27 Paul LeMassena
- 29 Halina Dreger
- 31 Jack Spilka



December Anniversaries

None listed!

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

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YouTube Channel

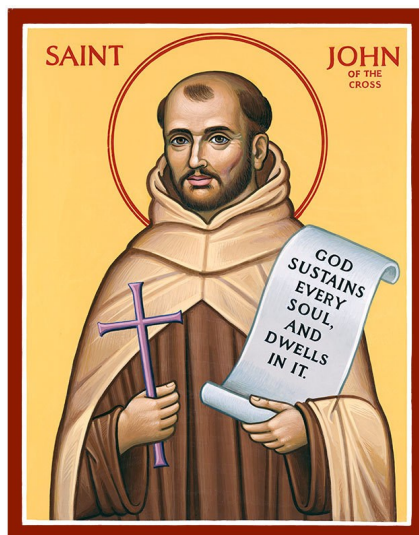
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our YouTube channel

"Advent Poem"

If you want,
the Virgin will come
walking down the road
pregnant with the Holy and say,
"I need shelter for the night.
Please take me inside your heart,
my time is so close."
Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime intimacy,
the divine, the Christ,
taking birth forever,
as she grasps your hand for help,
for each of us is the midwife of God,
each of us.
Yes, there,
under the dome of your being,
does creation come into existence
eternally,
through your womb, dear pilgrim,
the sacred womb of your soul,
as God grasps our arms for help:
for each of us
is His beloved servant never far.
If you want,
the virgin will come
walking down the street,
pregnant with Light, and sing!

By St. John of the Cross,

1542-1591



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
Nick Demchak	Sauna Smullen
Marty Bengela	Tom Putynski
Jeff Pardy	Millie Dominik
Kathleen Beres	Joseph Bischoff
Al & Donna Micka	Ron Ference
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	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
Kathleen Ridzy	Laurie Slominski
Mike Paulus	Gail Perz

WE ALSO REMEMBER

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

