

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2018

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Him!?

As many have gathered through the years of hearing me preach, seeing the clothes I wear, or even reading these newsletter articles, I'm hopelessly devoted to the home team....even if my particular home team sticks out like a sore thumb in North-east Ohio.

Depending on the time of year, my sox are red, I'm bleeding green, or (forgive me, Bishop) worshipping at the Sunday afternoon altar of Saint Tom Brady. Sometimes though, the different paths of life (sports and faith) have a way of converging on each other, and I had a bit of an "aha" moment as I celebrated Mass on a quiet, hot Friday morning on September 21, the Feast of St. Matthew.

Though I have heard this Gospel many a time, the extent of God's mercy really jumped off the page and clobbered me as I read the Gospel. Here it is, in its entirety below, from Matthew 9:9-13- "As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew



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In 2017, a movie called "The Wizard of Lies" came out, starring Robert DeNiro, Michelle Pfeiffer, etc. about the Ponzi Scheme heard 'round the world, the one that literally added the phrase "Ponzi Scheme" to the American lexicon: the Bernie Madoff scandal.

Over a 50 year career on Wall Street, Madoff had welcomed investors and fudged numbers for an extended period, pocketing money here, investing fake money there...finally getting caught, owing over \$50 Billion dollars in assets he will never pay.

I suppose I can go on and on how people have been financially "taken", but I think these 2 examples are enough. Money is a big deal- it is one of the main causes of stress, of divorce, of lawsuits, and even one of the things Jesus Christ focused on most in his teachings.

Why? Because it is always present, people always know someone with more and people always feel *just a little more* will make life more comfortable.

This was the line of thinking with guys like Matthew, the dishonest and greedy tax collector. Operating in the Roman Empire, one would need a bit of financial flexibility to even be a tax collector.

One would have a post and pay the taxes in advance for the average of whatever goods were being imported. Though paid a wage, tax collectors were renowned for their fluctuating rates, for threats of call-

sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' He heard this and said, 'Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, *I desire mercy, not sacrifice*. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.'"

Avid Boston Celtics fan that I am, I immediately thought of a story that I saw a couple of weeks earlier. One of my favorite Celtics, Kevin Garnett, had been taken by his "wealth manager" for 77 million (!!!) dollars! Garnett (for another 24 or so months) has made the most money of any NBA player of all time—\$326 million—so we are talking about a quarter of a man's fortune.

The devil is in the details, of course, but for the purpose of this small parish newsletter....the accountant literally helped himself to a million here, a million there, and got away with it for years because wealth, as it is, mostly only lives on paper anyways.

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Fr. Jason's Article (Cont)

ing in Roman Soldiers, and for being able to live a lifestyle beyond their supposed means.

There was a lot of paying-off of soldiers to look the other way while they jacked up rates, a lot of lying to the Empire of what the average product would be. They were hated because they were Jewish people working with the hated Empire in order to put the screws on their fellow Jewish people.

This was a system destined to fail, and many attribute abuse of this system one of the main downfalls of the Roman Empire.

Spojnia Sunday

Spojnia Sunday takes place on the 4th Sunday in September in the Polish National Catholic Church. Our Sister Organization has been around since 1908, servicing the needs of immigrants at the turn of the century and branching out from there.

The fraternal organization operates out of its offices in Scranton, PA and much of the pertinent information is available by visiting their website at www.pnu.org.

We were treated not only to a

Matthew was a known, hated cog in the system...but what could you do?! What could other people do about Al Capone, or Adolf Hitler? There were too many eyes, too much red tape, too much danger in fighting fire with fire...or even trying to extend the arm of the law.

So naturally, Jesus picked the man who may have been the most reviled in the area. The guy who wouldn't let you walk by without paying for it. The guy working for and with the enemy. Yeah, that guy.

Besides those extreme examples of gangster and dictators, I'm not sure if there is a present example. But it is a simple peer through the lens that emanates from the eyes of God. Why him?

presentation, but a sponsored coffee hour as well.

Branch #112, with president John Spilka, sponsored the coffee hour and Mike Wisniewski gave a 15 minute presentation as well, making the congregation aware of what Spojnia still offers to us.

Thank you for your presentation and continued support of St. Mary's.

Why the scummiest piece of humanity he could scrape off a busy, dirty, dishonest highway?

Why not?

It isn't *really* for us to understand now—one day, we will. One day, we will understand Heaven is for the 99 as well as that one sheep who got away, the rotten one, the black sheep. The sheep who spent his money on partying and prostitutes. We'll one day share Heaven with someone like that. Sound good? No?!

That is how much God loves his Creation, how limitless His mercy. We don't quite get it now...but we will. *Fr. Jason*



5th Annual St. Mary's PolishFest

The 5th Annual PolishFest of St. Mary's took place on September 7, 8, & 9 on the parish property.

This was the first year the event was held in the late summer, eschewing the normal July 4 weekend due to availability of the hired carnival company. This

was our fourth year using a local company, Great Lakes Expositions.

And though we planned, and though we mapped-out, and though we purchased, cooked, cleaned, advertised and prayed...Mother Nature did not agree with our new direction, as she opened up the skies and let us feel the wrath of a soaking, constant, weekend rainstorm.

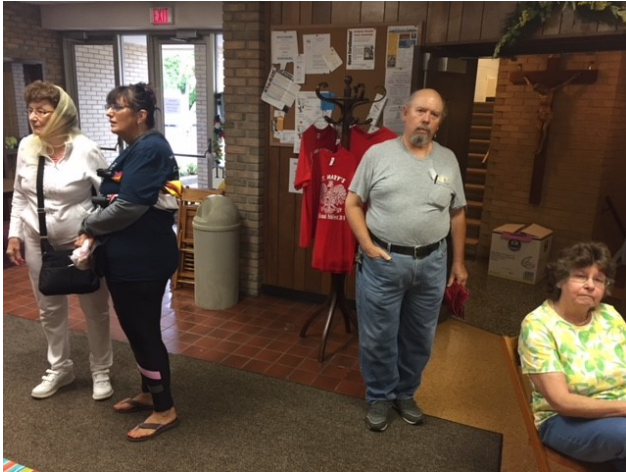
Already a combination of carefully curious/hopeful of what our new date and time of summer would bring, we unfortunately move on with little clarity of what to do going forward.

Fortunately, the event was not a total loss. We were able to turn a profit for the parish, which will supplement our



budget for this year. We welcomed many first-time visitors to our parish, even through the raindrops. Some tables even saw an increase of revenue, namely the basket raffle.

Wonderfully, support from our own people was tremendous. From our kitchen volunteers to our dishwashers to our quilters to our runners to our barkeeps to our moneypeople to our accordionist to



5th Annual St. Mary's PolishFest (continued)

anyone who volunteered a nickel, a minute, a prayer, or a suggestion: thank you.

The spirit was still tremendous during the event, that we were working towards something that would help our parish which, in turn, would allow us to Glorify God even better. To that end, we enjoyed many visitors joining us for Holy Mass on Saturday afternoon, an allowance we use on days we have weekend events.

Enjoy the few pictures, and may our prayers and focus be on #6 in 2019!



Remember When?

Well, do you? Unfortunately, this picture is unmarked on the back. Drop a phone call or send an email if you have any idea when or what event this picture was taken at!



Various Announcements

PEACE/PRAYER

One of the sticking points of the Synod was making sure we provide our people with a peaceful place that they can also call "prayerful" before the celebration of Sunday Mass. Though fellowship is wonderful in a Christian setting, we ask that you respect the prayerfulness of all of our people as you make your way to the pew. If a conversation must take place, please take it into one of our halls or do it very quietly – a reminder that echoes with the clergy as well.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Membership at St. Mary's is wonderful! It allows you to be part of the democratic process that helps define our unique Catholicity. For those new to our parish or those who have attended but haven't yet "made the plunge"- please consider. Our process includes setting up a meeting with Fr. Jason to allow yourself to be better acquainted with him and some of the facets of our faith, and, once comfortable, to submit contact, etc. information in the board room. This is also how you "get envelopes".

HALLOWEEN PARTY

There will be Youth Group sponsored Halloween Party on Sunday, Oct 28 at 11am (after 9am Mass and Sunday School). We ask the children to

dress up for the party...and yes, they can wear their costumes in church too (even the church babies...). At least, if attending the Chili Cookoff afterward, you won't have to wear the typical Brown's costume of paper bag over your face!

ELEVATION

The Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski has informed us that he will be visiting St. Mary's Sunday, Nov. 4th to raise Cleric Jim Ploskonka through the Order of Acolyte and to Sub-Deacon. There will only be one Mass at 10am as we welcome our diocesan bishop.

ST. MARY'S FALL CRAFT FAIR, which includes the Soup Sale and the bake sale, takes place November 10 – see Mary Ann Kasperczyk after Mass for info. Also, stop by the Board Room for empty soup containers.

OPERATION: CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our collection has begun, and runs to November 11. A reminder- boxes filled with gifts, school supplies, etc. & assembled by age/gender and delivered to a child in need somewhere in the world. \$9 must be included with each box, or a \$9 donation can be made sans box.

ALL SOULS DAY

takes place on Friday, Nov. 2nd. Envelopes are available around the

church to fill out and remember your loved ones. They can be dropped in the Sunday collection basket or given to Fr. Jason. All submitted names are remembered in prayer at Holy Mass on All Souls Day as well as during November Sunday Masses.

BRANCH 29'S CHILI COOKOFF

It's time to dust off your best chili recipe for this year's chili cook-off and Browns watch party. Do you have Baker Fever yet? Well, the cure is some delicious chili! Open to everyone and taking place after 11am Mass on Sunday, Oct. 28. Enter your chili, watch the game, and hopefully win a prize! See Ron Ference or call him 216-577-1062

SATURDAY

October 27, The National United Choirs meets at St. Mary's. Though the meeting is closed, Holy Mass at 9am that morning will be celebrated by Bishop John Mack of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese and is open to everyone. If you want to start your Saturday with Mass and meet a bishop, please consider!

LUNCH & A DISCUSSION

Mt. Alverna Village, at 6765 State Rd. in Parma is hosting a free lunch event that includes a discussion about common estate planning myths, by Attys. Jennifer Peck & Bryan Palmer of Solomon, Steiner, & Peck, Ltd. Of Mayfield Hts. To RSVP, call Beth at 440-663-1101 by 10/31/18.

PNCC Future Directions Update

September 1, 2018

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

As Polish National Catholics we are all a part of the Christian Family, we are family – we share the same birth, the same worth and the same “God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:6) On the second Sunday of October we celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family across our Holy Church during this Year of the Family. Make every effort to be at Holy Mass with your individual and parish family and strengthen our family bonds.

Spending time with family is so very important – God created family life for this. In the book of Genesis we read about God as the Creator of all things, including the institution of the family. The very basic concept of family defines it as a husband and wife with one or more children. However, we know that this is not always the case in every family situation. For example, some families do not have a mother or a father present; and some families have a husband and wife, but no children. Even in regard to Jesus we realize that Mary is His mother and Joseph is His guardian. The importance of the family in society should not be underestimated, for that is where we learn and develop our basic moral values .

Just as an individual family is part of society, the Christian family is part of a parish family, which is part of a larger family called the Church. The individual Christian families and the Church share a common faith in Christ and worship Him. The Christian family is built on the foundation of Christ Jesus, our Lord. We become a part of the Christian Family in the Sacrament of Baptism, through which we are united with Christ and become brothers and sisters in Him. The Church is essential to the Christian family because the family members encounter Christ in the parish community by participating in worship at Holy Mass, receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, hearing the Word of God and receiving the other sacraments.

Quality Christian Family time both individually and in the parish creates strong bonds, nurtures positive behaviors, builds self-esteem and creates lasting memories. Make sure you make time for your individual and parish family.

Some important family activates on the Christian Families' to consider, taken from a session of the Eastern Diocese Ladies' Society Convention from May of 2016. A family should/could:

- Have meals together
- Cook/bake/prepare meals together
- Pray together/attend church as a family
- Do Small projects as a family
 - --yard work (home, church, community)
 - --Shovel snow (home, neighbor, elderly family/neighbor)
 - --Service projects
 - -- projects at the parish



PNCC Future Directions Update (continued)

- Do homework together
 - Put away i-phones, i-pads, cellphones and talk to each other, especially meals
 - One suggestion is to place all cell phones into a basket before meals to prevent texting/talking
 - Read to/with children. Can also be done with elderly adults—helping to do crossword puzzles and crypto quotes with vision impaired
 - Play ball—do physical activities or creative art activities
 - Attend school functions—plays, games, recitals
 - Volunteer as chaperon /class parent in school or community activities
 - Invite elderly family members for meals—this encourages strong relationships and makes all less likely to suffer with depression
 - Have close connections with your siblings—sets example for children
- Sing together

And a few more to consider:

- Volunteer in some way to help others as a family
 - Build a Family Tree
 - Play Board games together
 - Be craft together – paint some kindness rocks/shells
- Get Outdoors – family walk and quality time

How are we best to live as a Christian Family both individually and as a parish?
St. Paul tells us just how to do that: **Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

May we truly live these words of St. Paul and grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in word and action.



Prayer - PNCC Missal 2006

God, our Heavenly Father, You have blessed each of us with the gift of family that through our family life we may learn to love and care for others. Open our eyes to recognize in all people the bonds of kinship. May we unselfishly serve them who with us have been made co-heirs with Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



October Days of Note



October

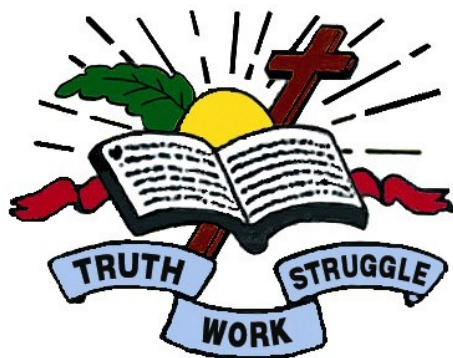
- 5 - Eileen Cashmere
- 7 - Elaine Repede
- 10 - Greg Hodor
- 17 - Michael D'Arcy
- 23 - James Boehnlein
- 25 - Bruce Bogzevitz
- 25 - Jim Nemec
- 30 - Krysta Kurzynski
- 31 - Marlane Oleniacc
- 31 - Patty Temesi



Happy Anniversary

October

- 3 - Jack & Lolly Spilka
- 4 - Jeff & Amy Dreger
- 5 - Pete & Debbie Moritz



The Structure of the Polish National Catholic Church

Part 1—The Whole Church

General Synod, convened every 4 years, discusses church matters and interprets religious teachings, selects bishop candidates and establishes church policy, law, and discipline.

Special Synods are called when

deemed necessary.

The Supreme Council meets annually to review church work and to administer all business that concerns the whole Church.

The Prime Bishop is the chief executive of the Church. He consecrates bishops, convenes synods, presides at the Supreme Council, controls church publications and discipline in dioceses.

Part 2—The Diocese

Diocesan Synod occurs within 2 years after the General Synod to enact laws pertinent to the diocese.

Diocesan Council administers business of the diocese

Bishops appoint priests, preside at Diocesan councils, visit parishes, confer sacraments.

Seniors are appointed by the bishop. They oversee parish business as instructed by the bishop.

Part 3—The Parish

Parish Meetings are held every year to elect committee members, to call for actions necessary to parish welfare, review parish reports, etc. Special meetings may also be called as needed.

Parish Committee is elected by the parish. At least 9 members serve to assist the pastor, fulfill parish and synodal resolutions, keep records, etc.

The Pastor is appointed by the bishop to guide Church members in the Faith, organize the Church school and administer parish business.

*Info taken from the Channing Bete
"About the PNCC" pamphlet*

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
Halina Dreger	Jack Spilka
Barbara Bogzevitz	

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	Bea Miskow
Rose Neyman	Carol Boesch
Joanie True	Daniel Rinella
Fr. Tom Sheha	Fr. Sr. Gus Sicard
Gracie Pijor	Ben Soltesy
Pam Tropiano	Linda Vect
Dennis and Sue Vect	Marcus Vaughn, Jr.
Bryson Dzurowf	Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak
Cherise Pacanovsky	Jane Hunter
Dennis Thome	The Finnie Family
Carlene Fliss	Jim Fliss Jr.
John Michalczyk	Bill Hinton
Nan Cramer	Bp. Stanley Bilinski
Bp. John Mack	David Vaden
Bp. John Swantek	Jeannie Bartko Muran
Mary Cawley	Edna Samelson
Anthony Soltysiak	Geri S.
Wanda Heffner	Larry Bernacki
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	Mike Sikut
Kelly B. Barbara B.	Julie R.
Loretta Baldwin	Julie L.

WE ALSO REMEMBER

ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bless them, O Lord.

**Visit us online at
www.stmaryspncc.org**