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

April 2025

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Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, six days before the crucifixion, Jesus made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey as prophesied in Zachariah 9:9: "Rejoice greatly, daughter Zion! Shout, daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

As written in Matthew's gospel (21:1-3) - As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

It is believed that Jesus probably stopped and rested while those two unnamed disciples got that head start and did all that work in preparation for His arrival. It was already a festive day — this was the day after the Sabbath, but the first day that



families would be purchasing the unblemished lambs for the Passover meal. First dibs were important even then, you know? So a crowd was at and around the temple, scoping out the goods.

Scripture continues: "The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:4-9)

That evening, Jesus made His way back over the Mount of Olives to the village of Bethany and the home of his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. It was about a two mile walk on the southeastern slope of the Mount of Olives. It is believed that Jesus slept at their home each evening during His last week (Luke 19:37), making 2 miles-there-and-back

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rather than perhaps staying at a Jerusalem inn.

Monday

On Monday morning of Jesus' final week, Jesus cursed the out-of-season fig tree for having no figs. Mark, 11:12-14 says: "The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it."

Taken out of context, it seems out-ofplace...but it was symbolic. In the Old Testament, figs were one of the representative symbols of the nation of Israel; the same sort of way we hold perhaps the Bald Eagle as a symbol of our nation. Jesus was declaring that the faith and spirit of the nation of Israel had died. (Matthew 21:18-22).

In the afternoon, Jesus entered Jerusalem and cleansed the Temple, one of the most memorable bits of scripture because it showed something we don't normally associate with Christ: anger. The temple courts had devolved into a marketplace for the buying and selling of animals to be sacrificed on the Temple

The gospel of Mark continues to show the conclusion of Monday: "The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city."

Tuesday

Jesus taught some infamous parables as



Opening Article (continued)

well as declared the Greatest Commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your Neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37). Then things got a bit dark. He pronounced woes upon the Scribes and Pharisees in myriad ways. When the Pharisees tried to trap him with an economic issue about Roman taxes, Jesus said, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:17). He so astounded the Jewish leaders with His wisdom that they never tried to entrap Him again.

As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem, He lamented as He contemplated the coming destruction of the city (Matthew 24). And while there was a lot more that went on Tuesday, this is the gist of it- Christ provided clarity of His death and second coming to his disciples on one end of town while evil men plotted to end his first coming on the other side. And then he went back to the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

Wednesday

Wednesday's highlight was that Jesus was anointed by Mary in Bethany. In John 12:4-6, we get the evangelist's point of view...and opinion...on this event: "But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it."

Jesus said to leave her alone, that she has done a marvelous thing, anointing my body for burial while still alive to enjoy it. I mean, this is the scriptural backbone of that very contemporary adage of "give flowers to the living, not the dead", right? Later that night, immediately after supper, Judas arranged to betray Jesus. Perhaps frustrated at Jesus' loving response to Mary's anointing, Mathew 26:14-16 says: "Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.

From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over."

And since Jesus was already at the home of his friends, he got his final night of rest before Thursday's events.

Thursday

Jesus and His disciples

observed the Passover and the Lord's Supper in the Upper Room. The event, of course, is famous: the room is to be prepared, it is so, Jesus speaks of the betrayal, and Jesus offers bread and wine as His Body and Blood.

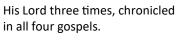
Luke tells us that immediately after sharing the bread and wine, the disciples began arguing over which of them was the greatest (Luke 22:31-38). Jesus was giving His life away, and they were arguing about who was the best! Can you imagine how much that hurt?

Then Jesus predicted Peter's denial, and Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same (Matthew 26:31-35). But Jesus knew. He knew they would run. The gospels show a farewell discourse that was difficult for his beloved disciples to hear and process.

Jesus took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. While He prayed in agony, begging God to avoid the cup of suffering, He asked them to pray for Him. Because He was fully human (as well as fully God), He actually needed their comfort and support. But they fell asleep and left Him all alone. The betrayer, Judas, shows, the power of Jesus name "I AM" wields its power, but Jesus lets himself be arrested and led away to the house of Annas and then to Caiaphas the high priest early Friday morning.

Friday

Filled with deep remorse, Judas hanged himself (Matthew 27:3-11). After seeing Annas and Caiaphas, the Jews dragged Jesus to Pilate and then to Herod where He was mocked, ridiculed and crowned with thorns. Herod sent Him back to Pilate. Neither ruler wanted to kill Him. But the people shouted to release Barabbas instead of Jesus. While Jesus was being tossed around among Caiaphas, Pilate and King Herod, Peter denied



Jesus and Pilate talked about truth. Pilate then condemned Jesus to die, had him scourged, and sent him to the cross. Pilate washed his hands, mockingly excusing himself of blame.

Jesus was crucified (Luke 23:26-56); "When they came to the

place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left" (Luke 23:33). Jesus breathes his last (Luke 23:47) and the centurion proclaims that he was the son of God (Luke 23:48). That night, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for Jesus' body. He and Nicodemus wrapped the body with spices and linen, per Jewish customs. Then they laid Him in the tomb, guarded by Roman soldiers (John 19:38-42).

Saturday

Jesus remained in the tomb Saturday. The Apostles Creed declares that "Jesus descended to the dead/to Hell".

Scripture reflects on this: "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the sprits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (1Peter 3:18-21)

Sunday

Sunday, of course brings about Resurrection at daybreak. Witnesses to the Resurrected Christ extend beyond Peter and John (John 20:1-10) and Mary of Magdala (John 20:11-18) in the first Easter Sunday moments of scripture. Historical accounts show evidence of a crucified Jesus, an empty tomb, and appearances of the resurrected dead.

May the scripture serve to enhance our faith in these holy days of our walk as Christian men and women.

Fr. Jason

Holy Hotcakes!

St. Mary's continued what is now a decade-long tradition of holding a Pre-Lenten pancake dinner, lovingly titled our "Holy Hotcakes" dinner. Except this time, the parish committee decided to have it on the Sunday preceding Lent, rather than Fat Tuesday.

The plan went into place rather quickly, and our crew of purchasers, decorators, and cooks went to work. After

9am Mass on Sunday, March 2nd, a piping-hot meal of fresh pancakes, sausage, fruit, and more awaited hungry parishioners. Love and appreciation to everyone who made the event possible, as well as to the supporters!

Monthly Mission Workshop

On Tuesday, March 4th, the Mission Team and friends came together for their monthly workshop, with the focus

for March being the creation of blankets to be blessed and distributed. A wonderful group prayerfully came together to enjoy some coffee, breakfast, and fellowship in creating these blankets for the use of our parish and beyond. Keep up the wonderful and Christ-like work!



GOD WILL
BLESS ALL
THE WORK
OF YOUR
HANDS
Deuteronomy 28:12

Pierogi Making

Pierogi Making for the parish took place on Saturday, March 8th in the downstairs hall. It was a festive and well-planned event, chock full of smiles and stories abound. Dough and filling prep had been completed the day prior, and Saturday was ripe with scooping, folding, flattening, cutting, stuffing, pinching, and cooking our famous and awardwinning pierogi. We even had a little pause in the action to celebrate Gail's birthday. Thank you to everyone involved!







Ash Wednesday

Prayerfully, the Lenten Season began at St. Mary's at Noon on Ash Wednesday. Fr. Jason led a service of the Litany of the Passion and the blessing and distribution of ashes. The day continued with over 100 meatless meals served for the good people of the Food Ministry of St. Mary's at 4pm. Finally, Fr. Greg joined Fr. Jason on the altar for 7pm Holy Mass, where ashes were again blessed and distributed. We were beckoned to take seriously the promises we made to God...hopefully we have prayed for the strength to continue holding on to them.



Friday Evening Lenten Devotions

Each Friday during Lent, St. Mary's provides for her people the opportunity of prayerful devotion. Stations of the Cross and Bitter Lamentations alternate each week, allowing for three different sets of Stations to be prayed as well as all three settings of Lamentations to be prayed over the 6 Lenten Fridays that precede Holy Week. We also take the opportunity on two of the evenings to adore Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament with the service of Exposition and Benediction.

Thanks to all who prayed along, and for those who didn't, let it be your next step towards a more fruitful Lent in 2026.







Ordination of Rev. Marcus Tinajero

On Saturday, March 8th, Fr. Jason traveled to the See of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, as the Rt. Rev. John Mack announced the ordination of Deacon Marcus Tinajero to the priesthood of Christ.

Ordinations are wonderful events not only in the life of the Church, but for all

those in attendance.
The prayers, the actions,

and the memories of our own ordinations bring forth powerful emotions, as well as a reigniting of our desire to serve the Lord. Seeing one so eager in the newness of ministry serves as incredi-



ble motivation.

Fr. Jason had known now-Fr. Marcus for many years, communicating often in his early days of his own priesthood. Also attending from the Western Diocese was Fr. Carlos Aranda from St. Mary's in West Allis, WI.



Pierogi Dinner

Friday, March 14th was the date and Saint Mary's PNCC was the place for our Lenten Pierogi Dinner. We have held many pierogi dinners through the years, and have tinkered with pricing, amount of pierogi, sides, how the pierogi are prepared, drive-thru, take-out, or eat-in, and other adjustments.

We had an enjoyable dinner that allowed parishioners and the public to come together and enjoy our delicious pierogi. Whether deep-fried or sauteed, everyone who partook was left full and happy...or happy with a doggy bag to take home! The hall looked great and the support from the parish was solid – thank you to all who were involved in this process of a successful dinner.







St. Joseph Honored

On Sunday, March 16th, the parish continued what has become a beautiful Lenten tradition where we honor St. Joseph on the Sunday closest to his Feast Day of March 19th. Worshippers were greeted with the sight of our St. Joseph blow-mold as they entered church. Holy Mass began with a procession of flowers to his altar, where they were passed to parish elder John Spilka, who presented them to Fr. Jason to be placed upon Joseph's altar. A blessing and prayer followed at the altar.

After Mass, an "elevated" coffee hour was held, with those little "extras" that honored Joseph in a proper way, featuring some delicious donuts, fruit, and more. To close out our celebration of Joseph, Holy Mass was celebrated on his Solemnity of March 19th, allowing us to fully appreciate the life of Joseph in his protection and guardianship of the Holy Family.









Lenten Retreat of the Northeast Seniorate of the Western Diocese

Resurrection PNC Parish in Temperance, MI served as the host site for the annual Seniorate Lenten Retreat, "Triduum Retreat" beginning at 10am on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

A breakfast of coffee, juice, bagels, muffins, fruit, donuts, and more welcomed the more than three dozen retreat attendees from Ohio and Michigan. At 10:30am, the bell rang, which signified the faithful to enter the church for a welcome by Administrative Senior of the Northeast Seniorate, Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak. Father Senior Nowak (Pastor- Holy Cross in Hamtramck, MI & Administrator- Resurrection PNCC in Temperance, MI) informed everyone of the scope of the retreat, the layout of the church and hall, and everything else we needed. He then launched into the opening session on the Triduum, Holy Thursday. He spent a bit of time speaking on the scope the Lenten Season and then hitting the main topics of the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders. He detailed changes in the church's history regarding the use and (re) implementation of the "Mandatum," or the washing of feet. He also made sure to detail the nuances that are unique to the Holy Thursday Liturgy: reception of Holy Oils, silencing of bells after the Gloria, procession to

the altar of repose, consecrating extra hosts for the next day.

After a short break, Rev. Jim Ploskonka (Visiting priest- All Saints in Sterling Hts, MI) began a session on Good Friday. Father Jim detailed specifically what was going on in the life of Christ in the events of Good Friday noted in Scripture as well as how

we chronicle those events in our liturgy. From the adoration of the cross to the Passion according to the Apostle John to the liturgy of the pre-sanctified, Fr. Jim detailed all of these, culminating with the saving Blood of Christ shed for us in

His death. He then spoke of "one of our own" who shed his blood for his love of Christ, the Rt. Rev. Joseph Padewski, martyr of the Polish National Catholic Church. Fr. Jim showed the group present a portion of a project play he has been working on that recounts portions of the life of the martyred bishop.

After another break, Rev. Jason Soltysiak led our final session on Holy Saturday. Fr. Jason first focused on the theme of "waiting" that is present on this day Jesus reposed in the grave and on the idea that is evident in the Apostle's Creed

of Jesus' "descent to the dead" and what it means to the Church's history. The second theme was "newness" and how the liturgy of Holy Saturday creates and embraces the newness of fire, light, candle, water, oil, baptisms, and renewal of baptismal vows.

Each presenter had a Power-

Point presentation to aid his words, with a set-up made possible by the famous "LC Productions." After the set -up was removed, Rev. Greg Gronn (Retired), offered a Lenten themed penitential service, assigning the "penitential psalms" as a penance. A lunch followed, prepared by the faithful of Resurrection PNCC and after hearty goodbyes, a prayerful time together concluded. Thank you to the host parish for all they offered the



faithful of our Western Diocese's

Northeast Seniorate.



Various Announcements

REMINDER! – Just a kind reminder that the few minutes before Holy Mass are meaningful to many parishioners to prepare for the liturgy and perhaps, to take advantage of the examination of conscience that is in the first few pages of the Mass Book. While it is wonderful to share a smile and conversation with our Christian (and pew!) neighbors- a reminder to reign it in a bit until, perhaps, after Mass at coffee hour.

<u>FR. JIM</u>— Continues celebrating 10am Mass on Thursdays as well as leading the St. Mary's Food Ministry Team's weekly meals on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you, Fr. Jim!

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.

<u>HOLY MASS</u> – for all of April, we use the 2nd Eucharistic Prayer, the Canon of St. Hippolytus, on p. 82.

SAVE THE DATES! – We also received information on the Mission and Evangelism Conference & Workshop that is to be held at St. Francis of Assisi PNCC in Denver, CO May 30-June 1. The Diocesan Youth Gathering takes place July 21-24 in southern Indiana.

PASSIONTIDE – Passiontide continues, 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...

<u>LENTEN DEVOTIONS</u> —Peace and blessings to all who worshiped our Lord and enjoyed walking the path of Christ these past Lenten Fridays.

CHRISM MASS —St. Mary's will be the host of the Mass of Chrism of the PNCC Western Diocese this year for the first time. Mass will be 4pm this Tuesday, with Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky as celebrant. Be there! This is really a once-inlifetime event to take place at our parish. A dinner, open to all, will follow the Mass, that will feature fresh breads, a wide varieties of soups (Mac-n-cheese, vegetable, clam chowder, kielbasa-n-kraut, borscht, cauliflower, loaded baked potato) and dessert.

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION –We have concluded our collection as of Palm Sunday. Thank you to everyone who donated out of the goodness of your hearts.

<u>CHILDREN IN PROCESSION</u> – As a reminder, we ask that you allow your children to process in the processions of Palm Sunday (9am Mass) & Easter Sunday (7am Mass).

<u>BOOK COLLECTION CONCLUDES</u> – Thank you to everyone who donated, much appreciated! *Marzena Krulik*

SCHOLARS CONFERENCE – Info is posted on Fr. Jason's door on the PNCC Scholars Conference of the PNCC on Saturday, April 26.

BOWLING EVENT - Attendees (so far) of the 2025 PNCC Bowling event from our League are Fr. Jason, Karen & Vince Colwell, Fr. Jim & Elaine Ploskonka.

SKIP A NIGHT OUT – St. Mary's is inviting parishioners and friends to *not* go out to eat; rather, we hope you would consider a free-will donation to St. Mary's in acknowledging the solemness of Lent by *not* going out. Envelopes are available with Sunday bulletins & in the Board Room - Please include your name-, we will pull a name April 27th and award a gift card to a local restaurant.

POLISH PARADE – The parade for Polish Constitution Day takes place Sunday, May 4th. St. Mary's will be marching in the parade. Wear a St. Mary's Shirt! – please consider marching with us! See Fr. Jason

PARISH PROPERTY CLEAN UP – A parish clean-up event will take place Saturday morning, April 26th – details to come!

MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Are right around the corner! They will be celebrated in English & Polish weekly during May. See schedule.

Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

April 6 – Eugene Mora of. by daughter Cherie Kugler

April 13 — Anthony Incandela of. by the Torres Family April 20 – Easter Sunday—No Intentions taken this day

April 27– (10am Mass) Adoloph Kasperczyk of. by son John & family \mathcal{Mass}

May 4 – Charlotte Hess of. by son Tom & Cherie Kugler

May 11 — Ruth Dobrowolski of. by daughter Pattie Dotson

May 18 - Stanley & Yolanta Kwiatek of. by John Spilka

May 25- John Paul Repko of. by Cheryl Repko



Open dates for Sunday Mass intentions for the rest of the year are Jul. 6, 20; Aug. 17; Sep. 14, 28, Oct. 19, Nov 2, 30 Please contact Fr. Jason to schedule.

April Days of Note



April Birthdays

7th– Helen Wankowski 12th – Michael Oleniacz 14th – Karen Barnes 17th – Walter Mielcarek 22nd– Julie Koehler 29th– Nick Sivik 30th– Sue Bengala

April Anniversaries



1st–Tom & Karen Bedocs 28th – Elizabeth & Zbigniew Starnawski

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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"Forgiveness"

A poem for Holy Tuesday Lord's a morsel dipped in wine and handed, sopping, to he who betrays you, who can't see the gift of you that's placed in hands that many times have compassed yours and shared your work and those of whom, though near you now, too soon will run when garden depths of olive peace are broken by the tramp of feet and fire brands and weapons' clash that -- angry turn-coats -- heal no harms, or one who in his fear denies at sunrise what should be proclaimed and led from dark with cock's bright crow. Forgiveness, Lord, is like an ear restored to one who yet may hear.

"Thirty Silver Coins"

A poem for Spy Wednesday

So what is one man's life, Oh Lord, But thirty simple silver coins: An honest shepherd's promised wage, To one who cannot see the worth, Incomp'rable, of one who's shared His cup and dish? Is money all That friend can see? Who deems, we find, A friendship poor commodity? What price to buy a potter's field, Who works the clay just as he wills To form an earthen vessel meant To hold its chrism and to crack And bless the dusty feet of God? What price for foreign souls to find A place of rest in Israel

Friar David Hirt, Author of each poem

But thirty simple silver coins.

Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

Bill & Pat Glatzer **Bob Kaczmarek** Bill Kastak Gail Perz George Makovicka John Spilka Johanna Markiewicz Patrick Kmitt Dee Mora Shauna Smullen Marty Bengela Tom Putynski Jeff Pardy Millie Dominik Kathleen Beres Mike Paulus 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 Tom Slomka **Penny Dennison** 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 Shyanna Tiller Kathleen Sobocinski Jim Giles Bill Zychowski Loretta Baldwin Donna Kidd Paulette Lilli Joseph Zubel Margaret & Lew Heifner **Courtney Austin** Marilyn Girard Stephanie Milla Shannon Alberino Jayden Pieciak Joyce Zeigler Sam Bass Katie Stallbaum Marcia Klein Kim Penney Laurie Slominski Amanda Monyak Roseanne & George Ziefle Judy Alexin Connie Benko Joe Litto Florence Nemkovich

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

