

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

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

**August 2020**

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## Preaching in 2020

Recently, after a Holy Mass, a parishioner (Let's call him MIKE) came up to me and had a nice comment about the liturgy and homily and said something along the lines of "little-by-little, we are finding about your entire childhood!"

Well Mike, (and anyone else with this thought) you're not wrong. My process for taking on the preaching ministry is to look at next Sunday's reading...usually by Monday. I also have taken to preaching in "bunches", or something like that- I'll take a month's worth of Gospel passages and unite them around a similar theme or, try to grow one Sunday homily into an extended, 4-week-long connected message. The first to notice this was actually Deacon Jim a few years back, as he was studying in the Diaconate program and had to look at and study "homiletics".

See, Mike was right because when I do take on a certain reading or group of readings, I let my imagination go with it before I ever start penning a homily. I think of what it must have been like preaching those words, what it must've been like to hear them, whether I would be one who would have listened to them or if I would've been one who scoffed at them and walked away.

I also try to think of how part of the message of that Sunday or Sundays has applied to my personal life. Rarely did I ever miss Sunday Mass in my life, my life as always revolved around the church, and, well, I grew up in a family that was large and featured many "sermon enhancers". The much-older brother, the brother near in age, the last brother brought in late in a sitcom's

run, parents with great strengths and weaknesses that I try to emulate and avoid decades later- it was there and of course it colors my preaching.

To that end – I became an altar server at age 4, with the stories from my mom being that I was a pew-hopper (and diver-under) and it might be easier for my brother/father to "keep an eye on me" if I was a server. She wasn't wrong- though, I have heard since from parishioners of that parish of the typical things a 4 year-old might do while trying to behave for an hour of church- inappropriate scratching, nose-picking, eye-rolling, etc.

A few years in, the altar servers switched from the cassock-and-surplice acolyte vestments to the alb-with-colored cincture vestments. And man, did I love it!



### Fr. Jason's Article (cont)

The best part was always wearing a new color- and the system was to check the color of the chalice veil on the altar to see what color we should wear. And I swear, once it hit green, it never seemed to go away. Our church was a hot church, and with green being the "color of summer", it wasn't the best of days for me.

Fast-forward 3 or so decades, and preaching-wise, green is the best. Preachers get to preach on the events of the life of Jesus' ministry as well as to preach on the preaching of Jesus- not to improve it, but, perhaps, to enhance the understanding of it. It always is an interesting, enjoyable challenge, especially if it is an event that is on display in all 4 Evangelist's telling of the Gospel. That means you are adding a 5<sup>th</sup> version of a portion of

the greatest story ever told!

So, a preacher at that point HAS to add a personal touch. It can't just be "he said this, but meant this, and told his disciples that it would later mean this." It becomes our job to add context, and to answer un-asked questions: why was Jesus on a boat? Why did he corner disciples in a house? Why did he sit to teach on the mountain? What town are they in, or near? What apostles were there?

Though the Gospel accounts of Christmas, Easter, Palm Sunday, the Ascension, Brotherly Love, and Christian Family are renowned, especially in our Polish National Catholic Church, it really is this season of Ordinary Time that we feel the essence of the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. We see who he befriended, his use of divine mira-

cles, the power of his preaching, the stress and pressure of gathered crowds. Over a number of weeks, we enjoy the Christological battle- the presence of Jesus of Nazareth: a human like any one of us, and Jesus the Christ: the anointed Son of God, Messiah of the World.

This article hints at some of the points I plan on making in preaching over the next few weeks (as well as some minor recaps from the previous). Of course, our blessing now is the availability of online Mass- if you missed and don't want to miss out, you can always go back and watch (even if just for the homily).

God bless you always, and I'm looking forward to wearing green- the proof is in my matching green Fit-bit!  
*Fr. Jason*

### Joyful News!

Congratulations are in order for a family from our parish, as they wonderfully grew by one over the month of July.

Allison and Vicente Suarez, along with daughter Elliana welcomed Vicente Vidal into this world on July 24. Mom and baby are doing fine, though mom said "Ellie is adjusting!"

God bless this family of four in their walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



## PolishFest 2020 Planning

July was host to two PolishFest planning meetings— the first, to figure out if we were even going to have one and the second, to do some planning regarding the whole thing!

The first meeting took place on Tuesday evening, July 7 in the Fellowship Hall. The decision was made to have

the PolishFest Labor Day weekend, without rides, etc. and in a drive-thru manner. Assignments were given to plan the event, and we were called to meet again the next week on Thursday, July 16th.

July 16th's meeting included dinner: pulled pork, hot dogs, burgers, sal-

ads, and a birthday cake for our organizer, Chris! Further decisions were made with happy, full bellies as the date and times were settled: 4-8pm on both Friday, September 4 & 5.

Stay tuned for more PolishFest Information in the coming weeks!



## July Drive-Thru Dinners

July was home to Drive-Thru Dinner #2 and 3 at St. Mary's, both of which were golabki dinners.

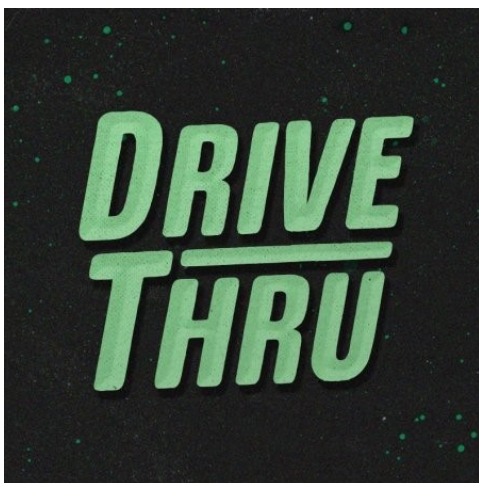
Funny story to both of these dinners: after the rather quick sell-out of June's

pierogi dinner, the decision was made to up the meals created by about 2 dozen for the next meal, July 10. Unfortunately, 112 dinners sold out in about 15 minutes, leaving some customers a little wanting.

Not wanting to leave them wanting, event coordinator Steve Fesz decided to "run it back", creating 250+ meals for the July 24 dinner. With a full day of preparation...and a full week of taking orders...the dinner sold out in about 75 minutes! A wonderful testament to fast service, good preparation, and an area's desire for good Polish Food!



We will have two more drive-thru dinners in August, on the 7 (Kielbasa and Cabbage & Noodles) and the 21 (menu TBA).

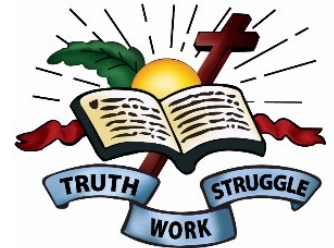


PNCC Future Directions Update

# DISCIPLESHIP

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## 2020 PNCC



### August 2020 – The Canaanite Woman: Persistence and Humility

As we continue to pray for healing, health and love for our nation and the world; this month on our discipleship journey we focus on the Canaanite Woman

[Click Here to watch a short video message on the Canaanite Woman by Shelley Lill](#)

#### Scripture for Reflection — Matthew 15:21-31

#### Questions for Reflection:

The Canaanite Woman persisted in her request for healing even when Jesus tested her faith. How do you respond when you petition the Lord through prayer but don't receive an immediate response?

Name a few important “discipleship qualities” that the Canaanite woman demonstrates?

Which one would you personally like to better emulate?

How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?

How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously?



#### Prayer for Youth

Let us pray:

Loving and kind Father, because You created us in Your image and likeness and determined that one generation should follow another in order to continue life, keep in Your tender and steadfast care the youth of the Church. May they come to know and understand that true happiness can be attained when they live in harmony with Your teaching. May they, like our Lord and Savior in His youth, grow “in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.” Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

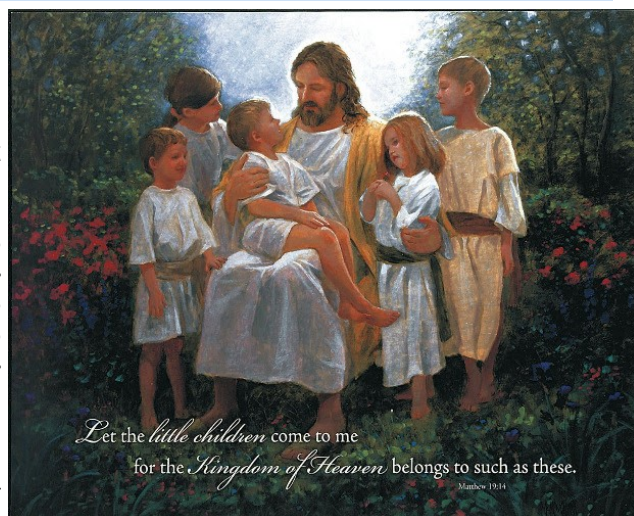
### Prayer in Time of National Anxiety

Let us pray.

I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation and our world. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of all people. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of all people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

PNCC Future Direction is on Facebook! Like us and follow our updates on Facebook too. 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](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
**PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee**



## Various Announcements

### ONLINE PAYMENTS

St. Mary's website, [stmaryspncc.org](http://stmaryspncc.org), has been updated to include an option to make a donation online with your credit card. You can even note what the donation is for. Your info is protected by Square, the same we use at fundraisers. Of course, mailed-in payments welcome.

### DRIVE THRU #4 UPCOMING

Our fourth drive-thru dinner takes place this Friday evening from 4-6pm. Fliers are posted via email, at church, and on Facebook. Patti Dotson has taken charge of the dinner for this Friday, which consists of a kielbasa link, cabbage and noodles, veggies, and dessert for \$10. Reservations are preferred, but must be picked-up by 5:30pm or are forfeited. To reserve, email Fr. Jason at [frjason82@gmail.com](mailto:frjason82@gmail.com) or call Patti at 216-801-1063.

### NEWSLETTERS

Looking for positive news! If you have anything to share about yourself or a family member, let us know, so we can pass on the good news to our pa-

rishioners. The good Lord knows we can use some good news in our lives.

### TRUNK SALE

St. Mary's is holding a trunk sale in the parish parking lot once again, in conjunction with Parma's Ward 4 Garage Sale. The event will be held rain-or-shine. Sellers get 2 parking spaces, allowing for proper social distance as well as ability to sell from your trunk or to put a small table out. For customers – it is like attending a whole bunch of garage sales at once! Please contact Susan B. at 440-781-7912 or [baylj@yahoo.com](mailto:baylj@yahoo.com) if interested in renting space to sell your wares.

### PHONES IN CHURCH

As we are still in the midst of this pandemic and adjusting to these temporary rules, please feel free, if comfortable, to use your phone to follow along with Mass at church. Much of the prayers, readings, etc. are sent out before Sunday Mass, giving you the option to print or read from your phone.

### PICK A NUMBER

We are just six numbers away from

being able to draw the winners of the Pick-A-Number Fundraiser that began just before the pandemic. Please help us out by choosing an envelope or two. The remaining numbers: 35, 38, 39, 41, 46, & 48.

### POLISHFEST 2020

It was decided that it will be a 2 day drive thru dinner, taking place Labor Day weekend: Sep. 4 & 5 from 4-8pm both Friday and Saturday. We will be looking for volunteers in the near future, especially in food prep in the weeks to come and for the event. We are also asking for donations: cases of bottled water as well as any monetary donation for anyone who may not be comfortable attending in-person or helping out for the event.

### DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Synod of the Western Diocese takes place in a virtual format August 12 & 13, emanating from the All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL.

### AVAILABLE MASSES

There are just a few available Mass dates for 2020 – Available are : Oct 18, 25; Nov 1, 8, 29; Dec 13, 20, 27. If interested in any of these dates, please contact Fr. Jason soon to schedule a Mass.

## August Days of Note



### August Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Johanna Markiewicz
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kyrsten LeMessena
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Blake Colwell
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Bob Samelson
- 6<sup>th</sup> – John Spilka
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Clarence Sobocinski
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Ploskonka
- Hannah Bilinski
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Tom Petrie
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Steve Fesz
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Len Pryer
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Claudia Toburen
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Matt Spilka
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Cherie Kugler
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Julie Alberino



*Happy Anniversary*

### August Anniversaries

- 1<sup>st</sup> — Chuck & Elaine Repede
- 5<sup>th</sup> — George & Roseanne Ziefle
- 17<sup>th</sup> — Bruce & Claudia Toburen

## "Sounds of Devotion"

Music soars in glow of Sunday air,  
These days, never a rare affair;  
For heaven's door is ever open-  
For the sinners, always hopin'!

Softly goes the scented breeze,  
That welcomes gradual honeybees;  
In the warm stillness of the day,  
Honeyed voices and organ convey!

In raptures of the dreamy summer,  
Come songs of soloist and drummer,  
In devout and lush praise of God,  
And larks tweet as though to laud.

Then the minister's mellow voice,  
Informs all that there is a choice,  
And this is so dramatically true,  
As sun's nearness at bloom's debut!

And the soldiers are now sleeping,  
And so the devil is now weeping,  
To hear sweet sounds of devotion,  
From the heart's most pure emotion!

## Evelyn Judy Buehler



OTO JEST DZIEŃ

## Our Prayer List

Praying for St. Mary's Parishioners & Friends

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill & Pat Glatzer       | Barbara Baranowski       |
| Bill 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             |
| David Micka              | Carol Hreha              |
| Chester & Ann Warzala    | Tom Petrie               |
| Amy Dreger               | Patti Dotson             |
| Elizabeth Starnawski     | Jack Spilka              |
| Elaine Repede            | John Radon               |
| Wanda Clark              | Beth Chihill             |
| Michael Cosevin          | Helen Cummings           |
| Laina Dachtal            | Wendy Andrzejewski       |
| Jay Grabowsky            | Pam Chesar               |
| Cecelia Hall             | Caroline Kunes           |
| Linda Marks              | Thomas Lill              |
| John & Anne Nemetz       | Rhonda Smith             |
| Emma Freshwater          | Carol Boesch             |
| Joanie True              | Daniel Rinella           |
| Fr. Tom Sheha            | Tom Slomka               |
| Geri S.                  | Ben Soltesy              |
| Pam Tropiano             | Linda Vect               |
| Dennis and Sue Vect      | Marcus Vaughn, Jr.       |
| Bryson Dzuruff           | Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak |
| Kelly B                  | Jane Hunter              |
| Dennis Thome             | The Finnie Family        |
| Carlene Fliss            | Jim Fliss Jr.            |
| John Michalczyk          | Cathy Pieciak            |
| Nan Cramer               | Bp. John Mack-           |
| David Vaden              | Bp. John Swantek         |
| Mary Cawley              | Richard & Edna Samelson  |
| Jim Giles                | Tammy Teubl              |
| Wanda Heffner            | Loretta Baldwin          |
| Donna Kidd               | Paulette Lilli           |
| Anthony Grad             | Azriel G.                |
| Marilyn Girard           | Courtney Austin          |
| Stephanie Milla          | Shannon Alberino         |
| Jayden Pieciak           | Baby Layla               |
| Jeremy Steinbrick        | Katie Stallbaum          |
| Marcia Klein             | Kim Penney               |
| George & Linda Makovicka | Julie L.                 |
|                          | Barbara B.               |
| Michael McGivern         | Daniel Morgan            |
| Barb & Jim Lucas         | Renee Lucas              |

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