

St. Mary's of Parma, OH Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2024

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What's the Big Deal?

This past October, members of the PNCC's Western Diocese were called upon to enter a Novena of Prayer for the 18th Diocesan Synod of the Diocese, beginning with a Zoom Meeting on Monday, October 7.

Most, if not all of the attendees of the Zoom meeting were delegates, although the meeting link was sent across the diocese. The question I heard a number of times was, "what's the big deal about a synod?"

The Polish National Catholic Church, hierarchically democratic in its design from its earliest days, speaks of the synod as its highest legislative body. In the PNCC Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Faith (2022), Article VII's preamble states: The legislative authority of this Church is vested in: A. the General Synod; B. the Special Synod; C. the Diocesan Synod; and D. the Parish Meeting.



In the balance of democratic power within the diocese, the synod holds incredible "oomph." In fact, synods, defined as "an assembly of the clergy (and sometimes also the laity) in a diocese or other division of a particular Church" have been a part of Christianity almost from the get go.

Scripture tells the story: Acts 15:2-35 tells of the Council of Jerusalem, where minds met to discuss pressing matters of the faith and of the work of the Church.

The pressing matters of that day, about 50 AD? How to address the issue of the background of believers: Jewish and non-Jewish (Gentile), and how to now integrate them within the faith. Debates were heard, and a decision was made that Gentile converts were no longer required to be circumcised or follow various aspects of the Mosaic law. This would become a prototype for meetings in the life of the Church.

Depending on the denomination, synods have taken on different scopes, meanings, power, authority, rhythm of occurrence, exclusivity, and more.

Before there were any "denominations," per se, the meeting of the minds that would include predominantly the clergy would be called today Ecumenical Councils.

The PNCC accepts all from the First Seven Ecumenical Councils. They are:

1. The First General Council of Nicaea, 325 A.D.
2. The First General Council of Constantinople, 381 A.D.
3. The General Council of Ephesus, 431 A.D.
4. The General Council of Chalcedon, 451 A.D.
5. The Second General Council of Constantinople, 553 A.D.
6. The Third General Council of Constantinople, 680-681 A.D.
7. The Second General Council of Nicaea, 787 A.D.

These first seven councils contemporarily addressed issues, renegades, and attempts to redefine the faith without any sort of consultation. Meetings of the minds are objectively good!

And while it isn't the case that information and decisions from the 8th-21st Councils are not valuable, it is that they weren't "ecumenical" anymore, with participation limited for a vast number of reasons.

For the sake of a monthly article, fast forward to September 1904, the first Synod of the new Polish National Catholic Church was held in Scranton with 147 clerical and lay delegates representing two dozen parishes and 20,000 adherents in five states. Father

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Opening Article (cont)

Hodur was chosen Bishop-elect and administrator of the new church.

As Hodur was elected, he and the Synod agreed that retaining unquestioned Apostolic Succession was a requirement moving forward and consecration was sought-after, ultimately taking three years to attain via the Old Catholic Church in 1907.

See? Synods do a lot— they are big deals! And in the Polish National Catholic Church, they remain big deals by addressing spiritual, theological, practical, administrative, and day-to-day issues of the Church at large or by each of her dioceses.

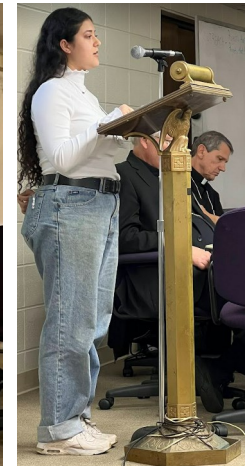
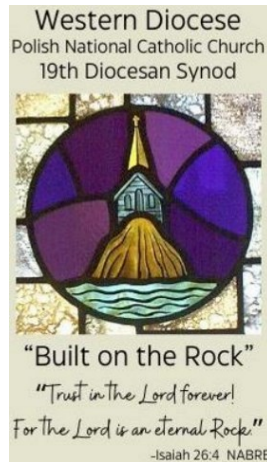
A Polish National Catholic Synod breathes transparency for the Church. Take our most recent synod of the Western Diocese. The lifeblood of all aspects of Diocese were reported-on: we heard of functions of the offices of the diocese, salaries, programs, properties, opportunities, and even planned construction work. Each of our administrative senior priests submitted a report on the activity in the seniorate (seniorate being a sub-section of the diocese, represented by a [usually] geographic grouping of parishes), be it of the parishes or of his own visitation.

The tracking of each parish is shown, financially and by-soul: every pastor is required to be present at the synod, so should any further questioning be needed, he must be available to his bishop (or diocesan administrator) as well as the synod body.

The synod body was canvassed for all sorts of successes, opportunities, desires and needs. Small groups were devised with a few key points to be addressed over a more mission-oriented portion of the synod: how to improve spirit; how you bring people to church/

how to bring people inside church, and more.

To close, a synod must have prayer at the center of it. The 18th Diocesan Synod began with the celebration of Holy Mass. It featured the close of



the 9 Day Novena to the Holy Spirit, whose invocation is a *must* for any synodal gathering. The Church's Liturgy of the Hours were prayed, and for anyone who wanted to stay an extra day, the opportunity to witness a Diaconate Ordination and the giving of Minor Orders closed out a strong half-week for our Western Diocese.

I don't know about you, but all of that makes a synod seem like a pretty big deal.

Fr. Jason



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Animal Blessing—St. Francis of Assisi

The annual blessing of Animals/Pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi was held on his Feast Day of October 4. On a beautiful Friday night at 6:30, parishioners and friends within the neighborhood brought the dogs, cats, lizards, and everything else that keep their home life in balance. Fr. Jason and Fr. Greg both shared the lead in the service and in blessing the animals. While out-of-tune, a quartet of dogs attempted to sing "Amazing Grace" together, which failed when the tenor tried to drown out the others.

Other than that, a blessed evening—thanks to all who attended and to Elaine Ploskonka for putting together



er treat bags for our guests of honor and to Trish Karabowicz who had an array of cupcakes ready for all in attendance.

Chili Cook-Off

The Annual YMSofR Branch #29 Chili Cook-Off took place on Sunday, October 13 at 11am, shortly after the sweets from coffee hour were happily digested. YMSofR President Chuck Repede announced the rules and welcomed those who came with chili as well as those who came to enjoy some chili.

The categories were traditional chili (red sauced, beef, beans, etc.) and non traditional (different meat/color/veggies/etc.).

With some delicious distractions like Doritos, Fritos, homemade macaroni & cheese, crackers, and more, the vote was in: Cathy Avondet won the traditional

style with "Cathy's Concoction" and Fr. Jason won the non-traditional with his "Turkey-tacular Testament" chili.

Gifts of hot sauce and kitchen items were given to the winners. Ron Ference also led his bi-annual Football Squares, with Brady S. winning the first 2 quarters, George B. and Chuck R. winning the others. Thanks to Ron, Chuck, our cooks, and all who keep this enjoyable event a mainstay.



Fr. Greg Gronn Receives Scouting Award

Scouting has always placed an emphasis on God and Country. The Scout Oath says "I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country." The 12th point of the Scout Law states A Scout is Reverent. The Girl Scout Promise says I will try to serve God and my country. Cub Scouts and Brownie Scouts follow suit.

To promote scouting and to encourage members to grow stronger in their faith various religious denominations developed scout recognition awards generically known as "God and Country". Each denomination sets the requirements for their awards and administers their own programs. The scouting organizations have ap-



proved of these awards and allow the emblems to be worn on the official uniforms. The Polish National Catholic Church's scouting religious awards are: God and Country for (Boy) Scouts, God and Community for Girl Scouts and Love of God for Cub and Brownie Scouts. A scout can pursue earning these awards by completing a series of requirements then the award is presented by the PNCC National Scouting Committee. There is also the Bishop Thaddeus F. Zielinski Award which is the church's God and Country Award for adults. Unlike the youth awards it is not requirement based but is by nomination for meritorious service to scouting and

church and then selection by the PNCC National Scouting Committee.

On October 15th, 2024 at the conclusion of the Opening Mass of the 19th Synod of the Western Diocese the Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, presented Fr. Greg Gronn with the Bishop Thaddeus F. Zielinski Award. Fr. Gronn, in scouting uniform, wore this Award after the 9am Holy Mass on Sunday, November 3 at St. Mary's PNCC.



Holy Mother of the Rosary

October 7 is the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of the Rosary. It is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of our parish.

We were joyful to offer a blessing upon a newly-gifted rosary from our friend Jonah, who worships with us weekly. We laid out our large rosary upon the steps of the sanctuary as a reminder of the reason of the Feast Day.



Clergy Appreciation

On Sunday, October 20, the Mission Team called forward Rev. Jason Soltysiak and Rev. Greg Gronn to recognize their ministry.

Barb Bogzevitz made the presentation of a card, gift, and a thunderously large cake. This was enjoyed by all in attendance and especially appreciated by the clergy. On behalf of both of us, much appreciation for keeping a fire burning in our hearts with the love of Christ and the love of Christ's people.

A blanket was blessed shortly thereafter.



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Hallow-Weekend

9am Holy Mass on Sunday, October 27 was celebrated by Rev. Greg Gronn on a sparkling Sunday morning. Afterward, he offered a prayer that kicked off the Halloween celebration for our children in attendance. Ms. Evonne Pryer put together a fine program for the kids to enjoy the opening salvo of what was an unseasonably warm Halloween week.



At 1pm, our second annual Trunk n' Treat event took place in our parish parking lot. A fine group of our most fearless parishioners opened their trunks, with some decorating them, ready for all sorts of ghouls, ghosts, and goblins. Appreciation to our parish chair for getting the word out and to all who participated in making this an event for the children in our community.



Sp. Clarence Sobocinski

A Memorial Mass was held at 9am on Monday, October 14 for sp. Clarence Sobocinski.

Fr. Jason served as celebrant and homilist of the Mass, with Fr. Jim offering the Absolution of the Dead at the conclusion of Mass. Both priests had a good relationship with Clarence during his time at St. Mary's.

Fr. Jason remarked how it was fascinating for a man to make the PNCC plunge in his late



80's, but it was something he never regretted. Clarence, he of the gravelly voice and sometimes gruff personality, grew a great fondness for the parish right down the street from his home that he never discovered until his final decade. Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Liturgy Meetings & More

Fr. Jason spent the days of October 28-30 in Scranton, PA for the meetings of the National Commission on Liturgy in the Polish National Catholic Church. The meetings begin each morning by 9am and feature discussion, review of issues of liturgy in the church, the presentation of work and a lengthy review process. The NCL has been working on a publication "Rites and Rituals" for the past decade plus, with a date of comple-

tion just around the corner.

Holy Mass is celebrated each day to conclude our time of meeting, and as is ancient PNCC practice, the students of Savonarola Theological Seminary serve as assistants to the celebrant of Holy Mass under the expert eyes of the Commission. It can be a bit intimidating! "The boys" did just fine in assisting Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky at Monday's Mass, Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk at Tuesday's Mass, and Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich at Wednesday's Mass, where Fr. Jason offers a reflection.



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United Y.M.S. of R. of the Polish National Catholic Church

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Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Advisor

Rev. Carmen Bolock, Organization Chaplain



October 28, 2024

The Feast Day Simon and Jude, Apostles

Dear Pastor or Parish Administrator, Parish Chairperson, and Y.M.S. of R. Branches,

Warm Autumn greetings to all on behalf of the entire United Young Men's Society of the Resurrection, (Y.M.S. of R.) Board of the Polish National Catholic Church. The United Y.M.S. of R. is an active organization within the Church that works to assist in national events across the denomination. This past year has included the Bishop Stanley Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat on Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA; the National Kurs encampment in Waymart, and the National Golf Tournament that took place in the Buffalo, NY area.

One of the events we are most passionate about is the National Clothing Drive. Over the last half-decade plus, we have asked parishes to run their own clothing collections and submit the results of the collection to our board. A parish does not need to have an active Y.M.S. of R. Branch to participate, and we know that a number of parishes already hold annual collections around this time – please allow us to track your collections for the encouragement of the Church at large!

The clothing that you collect would then be donated to a local charity. Parishes have charities they already work with, but there are more out there. Donatestuff.com services areas in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Texas, and Massachusetts- simply schedule with them for a pickup to a participating charity. The AMVETS, Salvation Army, Goodwill, and others will pick up items as well. Search out local or reach out to the United Y and we can help you in your search.

The drive begins now and will conclude January 6, 2025, the Solemnity of Our Lord's Epiphany and a period of a full ten weeks. Please post the attached flyer and poster in areas of your church for collection, as well as a collection table or bin. Schedule a day for a counting party as the event concludes and be sure to tally what you collect. In the event you have some clothing we missed to categorize, please use your best judgement. We would love to have pictures to post on our UNITED YMS of R Facebook page and in Rola Boza. The United Y also wants to support your charitable endeavors by rewarding the top collecting participating parishes. See the flyer for how this works! For further information, to submit your count, and to email pictures, please contact your diocesan representatives on the flyer or President Kazinetz at (570) 604-2620 or Nkaz20@aol.com. May we all continue to heed the words of Saint Paul, offered in his Letter to the Romans, chapter 12 verse 13: "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality".

Sincerely in Jesus Christ our Lord,

The United Y.M.S. of R. Board

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Various Announcements

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – For the month of November, we will use the 2nd Eucharistic Prayer on p. 82 based on the Canon of St. Hippolytus.

APOLLO'S FIRE –on Thursday December 12 at 7pm in Bay Village parishioners are invited to enjoy a rendition of *Handel's Messiah*. Group tickets have been purchased for \$25 per person and we have limited spots left – see Fr. Jason today to reserve your seats!

KOLACZKI – Get your orders in today! The parish will have church-made kolaczki available just in time for Thanksgiving for \$15 for 2 dozen kolaczki– See Pattie Dotson or Susan Boehnlein to place your order.

OPERATION: CHRISTMAS CHILD – We once again work with Samaritan's Purse to provide Christmas across the world. Boxes are available along with descriptions of what is needed, including a cash donation of \$10 for postage. A table is set up in the back corner of the church for you to pick up and drop off a filled box.

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 Fr. Jason, who will collect your favorites and pass them on to our Choir Director Chris so we can try new things.

ALL SOULS – Our cemetery service took place on All Souls Day, Nov. 2 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery (info & pics next month). We continue to pray for and remember your departed loved ones to open Holy Mass at each Sunday Mass in November. Envelopes are now around church for you to fill out and remember your loved ones. You can place them into the collection basket or drop them off in the parish office.

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 to 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! See previous page for details on what we are doing this late autumn/early winter.

HOME VISITATIONS – If anyone knows a parishioner or family member that would like a clergy visit, please contact Fr. Jason.

FOR SALE– There is a hospital bed and hooyer lift available for sale for someone who may need it—see Fr. Jason.



Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

November 3– In honor of Kay Beres' 80th Birthday of. by Nancy Roharik

November 10– Ronald Tiffe of. by son Jeffery Tiffe

November 17 – Hanna Pryer of by daughter Evonne Pryer

November 24– Ann Stepanik of. by son Gene Stepanik

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

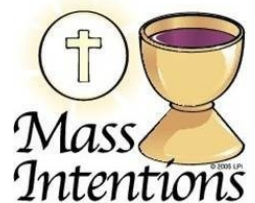
December 8 — Penney & Roharik Families of. by Ron & Nancy Roharik

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



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!

November Days of Note



November Birthdays

- 1- Brady Soltysiak
- 5- Ron Ference
- 6 - Alice Petrie
- 7 - Kathleen Beres
- 7- Mike Wisniewski
- 16 - Mike Paulus
- 18- Eileen Kasperczyk
- 19- Bill Glatzer
- 21- Krista O'Connor
- 22 - Josephine Ference (101!!)**
- 22- David Kubala
- 24- Jeff Dreger
- 25 - Michael Petrie
- 27- Vicente Suarez
- 29- Eliza Dreger

(Missed last month) October Birthdays

- 25- Esther Davis
- 25- Jim Boehnlein



November Anniversaries

- 5 Vicente & Alison Suarez
- 9 Marty & Sue Bengela
- 28 Dale & Pattie Dotson

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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Te Deum

You are God: we praise you;
You are God: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
And the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the king of glory,
The eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
You did not spurn the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death,
And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
Bought with the price of your own blood,
And bring us with your saints
To glory everlasting.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
Govern and uphold them now and always.
Day by day we bless you.
We praise your name forever.
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy;
For we put our trust in you.
In you, Lord, is our hope:
And we shall never hope in vain.

The Te Deum is A prayer of praise and thanksgiving, used once during matins (morning prayer) on days when the Gloria was used as well as for High Feast Days and now used sparingly in the life of the Church. It isn't regarded as being written by a single person, so it is noted as "anonymous." Search it on Youtube in the language of your choice for this beautiful liturgical prayer.

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 Parady | 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 |
| Maria Muttillio | Laurie Slominski |
| Mike Paulus | Gail Perz |
| Kathleen Ridzy | |

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

