

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

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

**February 2025**

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## Our PNCC Calendar

In the May 10, 1969 edition of the New York Times, Americans were aghast to learn that the Roman Catholic Church announced the removal of 200 saints from their calendar at the 2nd Vatican Council. Perhaps some of you reading this can recall that event. Other headlines in the following days read along the lines of "Christopher Gets the Axe" or "No Love for Saint Valentine!" or other pun-ny eyecatchers.

The reason given was "lack of reliable information", a distinction still held today. Interestingly, although removed from the calendar, Christopher, Valentine, and 198 others were still "considered" Saints of the Church...they just no longer had a day of "commemoration" or a "feast day" assigned to them.

This also began some identity crises in certain parts of the world. Parishes who carried the patronage of these saints were to change their names. Some resisted with the support of their Vatican-

appointed bishop, but most, with the change of one bishop to the next, ceased their former patronage. In fact, there are just about the same amount of Polish National Catholic St. Valentine Parishes (2: Northampton, MA and Philadelphia, PA) as there are in the Roman Catholic Church in America (3: Redford Twp, MI, Bloomfield, NJ and Bethel Park, PA)

The Polish National Catholic Church, of course, was not subject to the sanctoral decrees of 1969 by another denomination...but that doesn't mean we were not affected. Just like some innovations in the PNCC could be traced to that in other denominations (multi-year cycle of readings, Mass in the vernacular, Mass facing the people rather than "ad orientem"), the same could be said for the inverse. Solemnities such as "Joseph the Worker/Workman", "The Solemnity of Christ the King", and a few other were made part of Rome's calendar after our 1897 break. The research, implementation, and reasoning behind these days made it easy for the liturgical forerunners in the PNCC

to bring them into our own liturgical practice.

The original Polish National Catholic

Liturgical Calendar would have been a snapshot of what existed in a post Vatican 1 (1869-1870) Catholic World. This would've included Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Sundays following Epiphany, Pre-Lent, Lent, Eastertide, Pentecost, and Sundays after Pentecost. From this original backdrop was added the PNCC Feast Days on certain Sundays, but also something that spoke to the nationalism so predominant in our church's earliest years.

Even in the earliest moments of the 20th Century, there were more than 9000 saints recognized by the Catholic Church. Divide that number by 365 and you get just about 25 saints per day! Obviously, that is difficult to manage, so a few were given precedence over other, some were grouped with who they may have lived with or were martyred with, and some were localized. This means that saints from Paris, France, no matter how "minor" they may be would be given higher regard within the city.

In the PNCC, this preeminence was given to Polish saints, again, speaking to that nationalism of the early days of the denomination. Of course, days like December 27th's St. John's Day or November 30th's St. Andrew's Day and that of other apostles remained first on the calendar, but Polish Saints "jumped to the top of the list" in our calendar.



# SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY

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## Opening Article (continued)

As the decades rolled on, the PNCC eventually aligned itself to the calendar structure that the aforementioned Vatican 2 proposed, which included noting Sundays in "Ordinary Time" rather than "after Epiphany" or "after Pentecost". The PNCC retained its use of Pre-Lent, with our history showing it at times being optional or required in our use. As the number of Latino parishioners and parishes have grown, this has greatly

influenced our calendar as well, heightening the celebration of some saints, or "jumping to the top of the list" of saints that might previously have been existent, but not celebrated.

Our calendar that we use in the Polish National Catholic Church is uniquely "ours": a blend late 19th Century, 20th Century, and 21st Century practices, replete with our own national leans, denominational Solemnities, retaining of celebrating solemnities on their date rather than the closest Sunday, and keeping dates of certain feasts that

were (otherwise in the Roman Church) adjusted in the 1969 changes.

Having a well-thought-out, historical, and traditional calendar to follow that is unique to our denomination is a gift from those clergy who argued, defended, acquiesced, and worked to provide a map of worship for Polish National Catholics for generations to come.

Fr. Jason



### February Birthdays

- 2nd – Andrea Grmovsek
- 3rd – Carole D'Arcy
- 5th – George Bennett
- 11th – Astrid Wisniewski
- 12th – Jay Jurczyk
- 13th – Matthew Moritz
- 16th – Owen Arnold
- 18th – Karen Bedocs
- 19th – Richard Sosenko
- 22nd – Amy Dreger
- 25th – Fr. Greg Gronn
- 28th – Tom Putynski



### February Anniversaries

- 14 Ron & Nancy Roharik

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



### ST CHRISTOPHER PRAYER "PROTECTION"

Dear St Christopher, protect me today in all my travels along the road's way.

Give your warning sign if danger is near so that I may stop while the path is clear.

Be at my window and direct me through when the vision blurs from out of the blue.

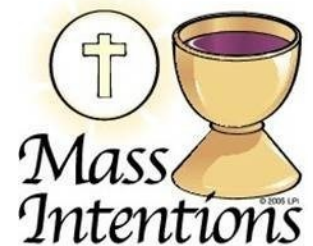
Carry me safely to my destined place, like you carried Christ in your close embrace.

Amen



## Scheduled Mass Intentions at St. Mary's

- February 2 – Sophie & Martin Szpilka of. by John Spilka
- February 9 — Anna Dawidziuk of. by the parish
- February 16 – Most Rev. Franciszek Hodur (72nd Anv.)
- February 23– Helen Kasperczyk (birthday) of. by son John & family
- March 2 – Helen Kasperczyk (anniversary) of by son John & family
- March 9 — Open Intention
- March 16 – Joan Spilka of. by husband John Spilka
- March 23– Open Intention
- March 30– Rose, Walter, & Edward Franczak of. by John Spilka



Intentions are available to schedule by reaching out to Fr. Jason. Open dates for Sunday Mass intentions for the first half of 2025 are Mar. 9, 23; Apr. 13; June 8, 22.