



Parish Tidings



**Polish National
Catholic Church**
"through the years..."

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Cornerstones

Bankowski Family



Agnes
Bankowski

When Stanley Bankowski and Agnes Baraniak met on the way home from church, they were members of St. Cyril's Roman Catholic Church in South Bethlehem. Agnes was born in Bethlehem. Her parents came from Poland with three children. The other four were born here. Stanley came from Poland when he was 16 years old. Because Poland was under Russian rule, he had attended the Russian Military School. Agnes' mother took in boarders and Stanley was one of them. Her mother was fond of him and suggested Agnes marry him. She took her advice, and when she was 16 and he was 24 they married in St. Cyril's RCC. On her wedding day she was taken by horse and carriage to the church. They had four children, one girl, Pauline, and three boys, Stanley, Bernard, and Arthur. Agnes, who taught herself to play, was the organist of St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church after the Polish church was established.

When her sister Josephine Ozimek died in childbirth leaving a four year old Amelia and a two year old Anthony without a mother, she took in both and raised them for several years until their father remarried. Amelia married John Sydorak and had two children, John S. Sydorak and Jo Ann Sydorak Schaffer. She wanted to name her daughter Josephine in honor of her mother, but felt Josephine was too long a name for a baby so she shortened it to Jo and added Ann.

When Agnes and Stanley met Bishop Hodur they were very impressed with the man. Agnes remembers people throwing pepper in his eyes. These people called the newly formed church "The Iron Church" or "The Left Church." Despite some early trouble they were determined new members who became very active in the life of the church. They were married for sixty years before Stanley died. Agnes was a fun loving person who was an endearing member until she passed at ninety years old.



Pauline
Werkman

Pauline, Agnes' only daughter, was very active in the church since she was 15 years old. The church had a large, popular choir that would be invited to sing in many of the Polish National Catholic Churches. She met her husband, John Werkman, through her brother Stanley. Stanley invited him to go along with the choir to sing, but "he had to change his name to Werkmanski to prove he was Polish". He never could sing, read or write in Polish. He would lip-sync the songs. They were married in 1939 at Our Lord's Ascension Church, located at Fifth and Williams Street in Bethlehem. John worked at the Bethlehem Steel Company and the Bethlehem School District as a welder. They had two children, Jacqueline and John.

Pauline was an excellent cook and baker. She was a pierogi lady who after helping all morning would leave to go to work for the middle-shift at the Bethlehem Fabricators where she worked for 30 years. After both retired they baby-sat their great grandchildren until they went to school. Pauline served as financial secretary of the ANS for many years. She and other members of the ANS worked in the kitchen preparing many dinners. Along with Mania Soltysiak she made the meatloaf for the famous Meatloaf Dinners which were served for many years to the delight of church members.



Mania Soltysiak, Pauline, and Amelia "Mealy" Sydorak, grew up together and were very close. They all married in our church and their husbands were all named John. They each had a son, John Junior and daughters whose names began with "J". Their family and their church were their lives. They remained lifelong friends until they passed: Mealy at 86; Mania at 94; Pauline at 95.

Remembered by Jackie Bayak, granddaughter of Agnes and daughter of Pauline

Parish Yearly Meeting

On the last Sunday of February our parish held its annual meeting with 27 members in attendance. Father Bogdan opened the meeting with a prayer. A copy of the Annual Report and the minutes from last year's meeting were given to each member. In the financial report Dan Broczkowski announced an increase of about \$5,000 in income over last year. Unfortunately the expenses were also about \$5,000 more. Therefore, the net gain 2012 vs. 2011 was \$452.25. However, we as a parish have an obligation to the Central Diocese for the years 2008- 2012 totaling over \$ 30,000. Father gave an overview of all the responsibilities and activities he was involved with during the year. A member of each society gave a report of the society's activities.

All the committee members elected to keep their posts for the upcoming year. They are:

- President - Dan Broczkowski
- Vice President - Walter Poposki
- Secretary - Joe Bartone
- Financial Secretary - Nancy Poposki
- Treasurer - Mary Ann Bartone
- Trustees - Joe Jurnock, Jackie Bayak, Andrea Gritman, John Wunderler, and Nicolette Stravronsky.

A fund raising committee was formed with Walter Poposki, Nancy Poposki, Andrea Gritman, Jackie Bayak and Mary Ann Bartone volunteering.

The meeting ended after a vote to change the mass time from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM on a trial basis during the months of April and May.

April at a Glance

- SOCL 9:15 AM – new time**
- Sunday Mass at 10 AM – new time**
- Coffee Social after Mass**
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

- April 2 – Parish Committee meeting
- April 6 – Seniorate meeting**
- April 12-14 -Mission & Evangelism Workshop in Scranton, PA
- April 21 – Women's meeting at 9AM**
- April 26 & 27 - Pierogie making
- April 28 - YMS of R meeting**

Pastor's Corner

My Dear Friends,



As we continue in the Easter season, I would like to express my best wishes for all who read this edition of Tidings - Happy Easter! The joy of the Resurrection reminds us that suffering does not have the last word, and our death is not the end. We heard from the Passover Proclamation during the Easter Vigil service: "This is the time in which Christ burst the bonds of death, triumphed over evil, and rose from the grave in victory. Rejoice all creation, for this mighty King is victorious". I want to repeat these verses to all of us: "Rejoice! Christ is Risen Alleluia! May Almighty God, Lord of Life and Death, helps us to rise above ourselves. May He break our heart of stone and give us a new heart, hearts able to love one another. Alleluia!"

Father Bogdan

Happy Retirement



Stephanie Czuba retired in February from the Boscov's store in the Palmer Park Mall after working there for the last 15 years. She started in domestics and ended up working as a cashier. Her retailing career began at G.C. Murphy's 32 years ago, transferring to Mc Crory's at the Westgate Mall for 8 years before starting at Boscov's. Stephanie plans to spend more time volunteering at the church and is keeping in shape by attending the "Silver Sneakers" exercise program at the YMCA. Traveling is something she is looking forward to do in the near future. Just relaxing and looking forward to snow when she doesn't have to drive in it to get to work makes her thankful. We wish her a happy, healthy, and rewarding retirement.

Breakfast Donations



As of March the YMS of R will sponsor the breakfast for the first Sunday of the month. The women's societies will be responsible for breakfast on the second Sunday of the month. The third, fourth and possibly fifth Sunday are set aside for the rest of the congregation to donate items for the coffee hour. If you are not familiar with the coffee making procedure, Nancy Poposki will be happy to help you.

Easter Egg Hunt

Twelve children along with their parents and grandparents enjoyed the annual Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday afternoon. Thanks to Tara Broczkowski for her hard work in making this event a fun day.

Financial Corner



| | Income | Expenses |
|-------|------------|------------|
| March | \$7,250.53 | \$9,153.28 |

March Winds of Fortune



Our annual Spring Bazaar was held Saturday, March 23, 2013. Although it was a cool, blustery spring day, devoted customers waited for up to 45 minutes for the doors to open. The public's response was great as we sold out of all the soups, salads, pierogies and kielbasi before noon. The total profit for the day was \$6,329.10.

The breakdown was:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Nut Rolls..... | \$1,242.00 |
| White Elephant..... | \$ 131.35 |
| Kielbasi..... | \$ 750.00 |
| Crafts/Polish Heritage.... | \$ 402.25 |
| Eat-In..... | \$ 413.75 |
| Take-Out..... | \$ 630.75 |
| Chinese Auction..... | \$ 734.00 |
| Baked Goods..... | \$ 377.50 |
| Pierogies..... | \$ 959.00 |

Additional sales made the following days netted \$192.00 for a grand total of \$6,521.10.

Something to Think About

Laugh when you can,
Apologize when you should,
And work to let go of what you can't change.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Three nuns were attending a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs baseball game. Three men were sitting directly behind them. Because their habits were partially blocking the view, the men decided to badger the nuns, hoping they'd get annoyed enough to move to another area. In a very loud voice, the first guy said, "I think I'm going to move to Utah. There are only 100 nuns living there. Then the second guy spoke up and said loudly, "I want to move to Montana .There are only 50 nuns living there."The third guy yelled, "I want to go to Idaho. There are only 25 nuns living there." The mother superior turned around, looked at the men, and in a very sweet and calm voice said, "Why don't you go to hell....there aren't any nuns there."



Cheese Pie

2 cups cottage cheese ¾ cup flour
1 cup sugar 4 eggs
1 can evaporated milk - add regular milk to
make 2 ¼ cups
2 tsp vanilla



Combine all ingredients. Pour into unbaked pie crust. Sprinkle with cinnamon.

Bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes – turn to 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until knife inserted comes out clean.

Makes 2 pies

This favorite of Pauline Werkman and Agnes Bankowski was submitted by Jackie Bayak.

If you have something to share, a story, anecdote, recipe, or up-coming event in your life, please submit it to Jo Ann Schaffer, Lynn Wunderler or Andrea Gritman.