



Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Lesser Know Saints Saint Stanislaus



Saint Stanislaus was born of noble parents on July 26th, 1030 in Szczepanow near Cracow, Poland. He was educated in Gnesen, the then capital of Poland, and was ordained there. He was given a canonry, a staff position, by the bishop of Cracow, who made him his preacher. He soon became noted for his preaching. A much sought after spiritual advisor, he became successful in his reforming efforts and in 1072 was named Bishop of Cracow. He became the enemy of King Boleslaus the Bold when he denounced the King's cruelties and injustices and especially his kidnapping of the beautiful wife of a nobleman. Stanislaus excommunicated the King and stopped services at the Cathedral when Boleslaus entered. This enraged him and Boleslaus himself killed Stanislaus while he was saying Mass in a chapel outside the city on April 11, 1079. Stanislaus was canonized by Pope Innocent IV in 1253 and is the principle patron of Cracow and Poland. April 11 became his feast day.

Saints John the Baptist, Thomas Becket, Thomas More, and Stanislaus are a few of the prophets who dared to denounce corruption in high places. They follow in the footsteps of Jesus himself, who pointed out the moral corruption in the leadership of his day.

120th Anniversary Brunch



To celebrate the 120th anniversary of the formation of the Polish National Catholic Church, the ANS sponsored a brunch after mass on Sunday, March 12, 2017. After a blessing by Father, all were treated to orange juice, fruit, egg

casserole, polka dot pancakes, rolls, Danish and birthday cake. Thanks to Jo Ann Schaffer, Stephanie Czuba, Sonia Kotch, Renee Anthony, Nancy Poposki and Andrea Gritman for setting up, preparing the food and cleanup and to Marilyn Kovacs for donating the paper products. In addition thanks to Jo Ann Schaffer, Lynn Wunderler, Helen Trexler, Marilyn Kovacs and Andrea Gritman for providing the raffle prizes. The lucky raffle winners were: Jerry Gritman, Walter Poposki, Father Bogdan, Mary Ann Bartone, Barb Jurnock, Fran Anthony, Karen Amate and Mia Fernandes.

Easter Eggs and Bunnies



Most people think that a chocolate egg at Easter is a modern-day thing probably introduced in the middle 20th century. In fact, chocolate Easter Eggs first started to appear in the early 1800's although they were gritty dark chocolate and a world apart from the modern-day ones we eat today. It wasn't until 1873 that the first mass-produced egg appeared, courtesy of Cadbury's. We had to wait until 1905 for the first milk chocolate egg to become a favorite treat.

The egg was viewed as a symbol of new life and fertility throughout the ages and used by many ancient people during their Spring Festivals. Later, the egg represented Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection and therefore, new life.

In medieval Europe, eggs were a forbidden food during Lent so they boiled, preserved, and saved them for Easter. Once Easter arrived, these eggs were then the mainstay of the Easter meal and a prized gift for children and servants alike.

A pregnant Roman woman carried an egg on her person to foretell the sex of her unborn child. French brides stepped upon an egg before crossing the threshold of her new home. Old Polish legends firmly attached the egg to the Easter celebration as the family shared the egg in the same way as they

shared the wafer at Christmas. These eggs were often presented in baskets lined with colored straw to resemble a bird's nest. Polish folklore also tells of the Virgin Mary giving eggs to the soldiers guarding the cross which held Jesus.

The rabbit or hare was also often used in Spring celebrations as a sign of fertility due to their frequent births. It was used in Germany first, with German immigrants taking the tradition to America, particularly Pennsylvania, where it spread to a much wider public. Sometimes, the Easter Bunny was used to hide the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Cakes and biscuits were baked in bunny shapes. Today, you are more likely to find a chocolate shaped bunny.

March Birthdays



On March 12, 2017, the ANS provided a birthday cake honoring the parishioners celebrating their February birthdays. Congratulations to Dan Broczkowski,

Anna Yurchishin and Gerry Matla who celebrated March birthdays

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Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday – Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:30 PM

Agape Supper after Mass

Good Friday – The Passion of the Lord at 6:30 PM

Holy Saturday – Blessing of Easter food at 11 AM

Easter Vigil at 6 PM

Easter Sunday – Holy Mass at 9 AM

April at a Glance

Sunday Mass at 9 AM

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

April 2 – Meeting for Spring Bazaar

April 8 – Spring Bazaar

April 9 – ANS meeting

April 16 - Easter Sunday



Pastor's Corner

My Dear Friends,

We are now at the door step of the most important celebration of the liturgical year - Passover. The holy season of Easter overflows with rich readings and hymns which give us hope and strength.

Hope comes from Jesus' grave. Death doesn't have power over Him. Rising from the grave, Jesus opened the gates of heaven for us. Death should not be considered a scary event in our life, but instead as a rebirth into eternal life. We read in the First Letter of St. Peter 1, 3:

"Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he who in his great mercy gave us new birth; a birth unto hope which draws its life from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead;..."

As Jesus returns from the dead, he is giving us strength. In the Gospel, St. John describes the moment when he first believed in Jesus's resurrection. Along with St. Peter, he arrived to Jesus' grave and his faith is expressed as, *"He saw and believed"*. The faith of us all was built off of their faith; it gave strength to all of the Christians to carry this message through more than two thousand years. Are you ready to pass this joyful message to others?

On the morning of Easter, the Holy Church encourages us through the words of St. Paul: *"Since you have been raised up in company with Christ, set your heart on what pertains to higher realms where Christ is seated at God's right hand. Be intent on things above rather than on things of earth. After all, you have died! Your life is hidden now with Christ in God"*.

Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Now it is your turn to pass this message on to the rest of the world!

Father Bogdan

Around the Parish

- Please keep Jenna DeVivo in your prayers as she spends the spring semester in Cusco, Peru participating in the University of Pittsburgh Study Abroad program.
- Thanks to Renee and Fran Anthony for the purchase of a new roasting pan.
- Thanks to Jackie Bayak and Mary Ann Bartone for organizing the storage closet and to Jerry Gritman for reinforcing the shelves.
- Thanks to Lynn Wunderler for purchasing four large trays used for pierogi making.
- Thanks to Mary Ann Bartone for cleaning the fryer used during bingo.
- For the sixth consecutive year, Joe Jurnock has organized a parish outing to attend a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs baseball game. For the Friday, September 1, 7:05 PM game against the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders, we will be seated in the PPL Picnic Patio. The \$28.00 cost includes tickets to the game, an 'all you can eat' buffet, unlimited soft drinks and a beautiful fireworks display. Payments for the fun outing should be made to Joe Jurnock before July 30.
- Thanks to Jackie Bayak, Andrea Gritman and Barbara Frisch for purchasing the three new stools for the kitchen.
- Thanks to Marilyn Kovacs for purchasing and paying for the installation of the two new kitchen faucets.

Preparation Schedule for the Spring Bazaar

Many members of our church have been busy the past few months preparing for the Spring Bazaar. A total of 161 rolls were baked by the ANS members and 415 dozen pierogies were made by our parishioners. Joe and Mary Ann Bartone and Fran and Renee Anthony steamed 3 cases of cabbage for Halupki making. A special thanks to Elias Market for donating the cabbage.

Below is list the schedule for the final week of preparation. Please see if you can find time to help out.

- Sunday, April 2 – Meeting for Bazaar
- **Tuesday, April 4 at 9 AM – Auction, Craft Table & White Elephant setup**
- Wednesday, April 5 at 9 AM – Setup if necessary
- **Thursday, April 6 at 9 AM – Kiffle baking & setup**
- Friday, April 7 at 9 AM – Halupki making & final preparations
- **Saturday, April 8 – Spring Bazaar – doors open for workers at 8 AM**

Sermon Jokes for Easter

What Price a Sermon?



One Easter Sunday the Reverend Jones announced to his congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons.....

A \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes

A \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes

And a \$20 sermon that lasts a full hour.

Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.'

A Vicar and His Son

Andrew was watching his father, a Vicar, write a sermon for the Easter service.

'How do you know what to say?' Andrew asked.

'Why, God tells me', the father replied.

'Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?'

Chocolate Easter Eggs

Peanut Butter

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 1/2 lb. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- pinch of salt

Coconut Cream

- 1/3 lb. butter
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 2 1/2 cups fine coconut
- 1 1/2 tbsp. coconut flavoring
- 1 1/2 lb. powdered sugar
- pinch of salt

Directions

Mix until well blended and put in refrigerator until chilled, about 1 hour. Shape into egg shapes and freeze on a cookie sheet covered with waxed paper for 1 hour.

Melt 2 cups of semi-sweet chocolate chips and 1 tbsp. shortening in a double boiler over low heat. When melted, dip eggs in chocolate with long tined fork. Place on waxed paper and allow to cool.

The recipe for dipping chocolate is for 1 flavor of egg. If you are making both flavors of eggs, double the recipe.

