



# Parish Tidings



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

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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## Cornerstones

### Matla and Rudnicki Families



Frank and Stella Matla  
on their wedding day

My grandfather (Dziadzi), Joseph Matla, was born on March 6, 1882 in Przeciszow, Pow Wadowice, Poland and after coming to America he settled in Lackawanna, New York. He was

working for Bethlehem Steel Company at the time.

My grandmother (Babgi), Lucy Czuba was born on December 8, 1883 in Praeciszow, Pow Wadowice, Poland also settled in Lackawanna, New York. They did not know each other in Poland. My babgi did domestic work in Poland and Lackawanna. She was an excellent cook. When the bishop and priests came to Bethlehem for services, they requested my babgi cook for them. She cooked the meals like they were use to in Poland.

Dziadzi needed a wife, so he told her, "If you marry me, you will not have to work for anyone else". They got married at St. Barbara's Parish in Lackawanna, New York on June 3, 1905. Shortly after they were married, Dziadzi was transferred to Bethlehem, PA and worked for the steel company until his retirement. They had five children: Stanley, Anthony, Katheryne, Frank and Edward.

My grandfather (Dziadzi), Walter Rudnicki was born on August 13, 1890 in Wroble, Poland and after coming to America settled in Bethlehem, Pa. He also worked for Bethlehem Steel Company until his retirement.

My grandmother (Babgi), Eva Mil was born on November 18, 1898 in Bialystok, Poland also settled in Bethlehem, PA. She met my dziadzi and they were married at St. Stanislaus Parish, Bethlehem, PA on February 2, 1918. They had three children: Stella, Anna and Mary. My babgi worked at St. Luke's Hospital until her retirement.

Both Polish families belonged to St Stanislaus Parish in Bethlehem. The priest at St. Stanislaus was always collecting money to build a parochial school on the church property. My Dziadzi Matla refused to give any more

money until he saw work on the school in progress. The priest refused my father, Frank, First Holy Communion until my dziadzi paid the money. So they left St. Stanislaus Parish. By the way, that school was never built.

In the meantime, a new Polish Catholic parish was being formed on the south side of Bethlehem. This church was only a block away from where the Matla family resided and the masses were in Polish. The church was Our Lord's Ascension Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church. They joined the parish and so did the Rudnicki family and many other Polish families from St. Stanislaus.

This church was their social life. They were small in numbers but big at heart. My uncle Stanley was the first organist and choir director for the parishes in Bethlehem and Allentown. From what I was told, they had a great choir (The Moniuszko Choir) and they performed at many of the Polish National Catholic Churches. My dad said the only choir better was the Cathedral Parish in Scranton, PA.

My uncle Stanley and Aunt Mary were the first couple married at Our Lord's Ascension Parish in the south side of Bethlehem.

My Uncle Tony, the Very Reverend Anthony Matla was a priest for over forty years in the Chicago Diocese. He hosted a radio show in Chicago and was the chief spokesman at the General Synod in Chicago in 1958. He spearheaded the interchurch movement for incorporating the mass in the English language.

Frank Matla met Stella Rudnicki at Our Lord's Ascension Parish. My dad told me when he saw my mother he knew she was the one for him. They were married on June 5, 1937. They had two children, Gerald and Frank.

My dad retired from Bethlehem Steel Company and my mom retired from Modern Clothing Company. Stella was very active in the parish. She sang with the Moniuszko Choir and held many offices in the church societies. She was the organist for 57 years until her death on March 13, 1992. A plaque hangs in the narthex commemorating her many years of service.

Submitted by Gerry Matla

## 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary



Mass on Sunday, September 1, 2013 will be celebrated honoring Joe and Barbara Jurnock on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. In order to accommodate out of town guests for this milestone in their marriage, the service will be at 10 AM on this day.

## The Dog Days of Summer



What are the dog days of summer? The dog days of summer seems to be a natural expression. In hot weather dogs pant and lie as flat on the ground as they can to avoid the heat. However, the expression doesn't originate with the behavior of dogs during the summer. It reaches farther back in time to some mistaken astronomical impressions of the Greeks and Romans.

During hot weather, particularly the period from mid - July through August, the star Sirius part of the constellation Canis Major (the big dog), rises and sets with the sun. It was believed by the ancients that this rising and setting produced extra heat for the Earth. This explanation was used to account for the hot and sultry heat produced during the summer months.

Of course we now know that, while Sirius produces a tiny amount of light energy in our direction, it isn't responsible for the dog days of summer. The hot weather is actually caused by the tilt of the Earth in relationship to the Sun. In the Northern Hemisphere, this slight tilt allows the Earth to receive more direct sunlight beginning on June 21st. Thank God for air conditioning.

## August at a Glance

**Sunday Mass at 9 AM**

Coffee Social after Mass

**Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM**

August 6 – Roll baking

**August 16 & 17 – Pierogi making**

August 20 – 22 – Clergy Conference

**August 30 – Iron Pigs game**

August Committee meeting will be held  
September 3, 2013

**September 1 - Mass at 10 AM**

## Mae Skovronsky



With deepest sorrow we announce the passing of Mae Skovronsky on July 29, 2013. An active member of our church, she was always there to help with pierogi making, roll baking and of course the fall and spring bazaars.

Mae will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughters Barbara Frisch, Carol Wagner and their families.

## Coopersburg Community Day

For the third consecutive year our parish will be participating in the Coopersburg Community Day on Saturday September 21, 2013. In addition to gaining a monetary profit from the sale of our specialty items, this is an opportunity for us to promote our church. We will be selling pierogies, cabbage and noodles, baked goods, the parish cookbook and our lottery calendar as well as craft articles. It is scheduled rain or shine from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm with a set-up time beginning at 7:00 am. As a parish event all members are invited and encouraged to join in the venture in some way. The fund raising committee, would welcome cash donations for the purchase of necessary items needed for the sale (ice, paper products, registration fees, rent, etc.), donations of food items, and most importantly, your time manning a booth for a few hours. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the vestibule where you can volunteer.

## Renovations and Improvements

Due to a law passed in 2012, all buildings in the city of Bethlehem used by the public must pass inspection by the fire department. Unfortunately the original emergency lighting in the church nave and hall were not working properly and we were required to have them fixed or replaced. New lights were added to each of the restrooms along with replacement of the other lights bringing the building up to code. Thanks to John Wunderler for supervising the project and to Ron Trawinski for covering the cost of the project in honor of his late mother, Helen Trawinski.

Repairs to the roof and replacing the concrete at the basement entrance are the next projects. Both were cited by the Guide One insurance inspector last fall and need to be fixed by this November. Repainting the wall in the kitchen and lighting the church steeple are also on the "must do" list. An air conditioner was purchased for the conference room to make working on parish business bearable. Anyone interested in making a financial contribution for these projects, please see any member of the parish committee.



Thanks to Anna Yurchishin and Cindy Weller for planting the marigolds along the entrance to the church and to Evan Weller for weeding and mulching. After a brief fight with some poison ivy, the downed tree by the parking lot was successfully removed thanks to Ernie and Nicolette Stavrovsky.

## Financial Corner



	Income	Expenses
July	\$3,833.35	\$5,873.88

## Golf During Church



The pastor woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny day, decided he just had to play golf. So... he told the associate pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to preach for him that day. As soon as the associate left the room, the pastor headed out of town to a golf course about 40 miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his church. Setting up on the first tee, he was all alone. About this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from heaven and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, "No, I guess not." Just then he hit a ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. It was a 435 yard HOLE IN ONE! Saint Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

## NOAH

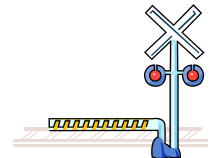


If you are looking for a wholesome activity for the family, the Sight & Sound Productions of Lancaster County, PA is presenting "Noah" until November 2, 2013. It tells the story of Noah's faithfulness to God in building the ark and of God's promises to Noah and future mankind. The design and construction for "Noah" are the largest with 40 foot-high sets and over 100 live and animatronic animals.

All the productions are based on Biblical principles which bring epic Bible stories to life on stage. Following "Noah", "The Miracle of Christmas" will play from November 22 - December 30, 2013. To order tickets call 800 - 377 -1277 or visit [sight-sound.com](http://sight-sound.com).

## Railroad Cake

- 5 cups sifted flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 lb. butter
- 2 Tablespoons Crisco
- 5 egg yolks
- 1 small sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- pinch of salt



- Sift dry ingredients.
- Add butter, eggs, sugar, Crisco and the rest of ingredients.
- Mix well. Divide dough into 3 equal parts.
- Roll first dough and put on large jelly roll pan.
- Spread with walnut mixture.
- Roll second dough and put on top of first layer.
- Spread with lekvar, apricot, or pineapple preserves.
- Roll third dough and put on top of second layer.
- Spread with lekvar, apricot or pine-apple preserves.
- Sprinkle with reserved walnut mixture.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.

- Walnut mixture:
- 1 1/2 cups ground walnuts                      1/2 cup sugar
- Reserve 1/4 cup to sprinkle on top.
- Add a little milk to mixture before spreading on first layer.

*A favorite of the Matla family*

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.