



Parish Tidings

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Keystones

Gerald (Gerry) Matla



I, Gerald Matla was born to Frank and Stella Rudnicki Matla on March 18, 1942 in Allentown, PA. I was a cute baby. If you have

any doubt, just look at me now.

A big part of my life has been dedicated to our parish. Growing up, I attended Polish school classes every Saturday morning. I became an altar boy and then went on to sing in the choir. To this day, you can still hear me singing in both English and Polish. I served as President of the Parish Committee for many years. Today I am Vice-President of the YMS of R of our parish. I call Bingo every Wednesday in the church hall. I do whatever I can to help out at the parish.

When I was a young lad, I took accordion lessons. I formed two orchestras during that time. The first band was called "The Ravens." We played for many weddings, picnics and clubs in the area. In our polka band, I played accordion and sang the vocals in both Polish and English. Our first job was at the Lynn's Club on the south side of Bethlehem, although we were only 12 years old. We played for a dollar a night. For a dollar you got a platter and all the beer you could drink. "Those were the days." The second band I formed was called "The Deacons." We played contemporary music. A lot of our jobs were in the Bucks County and New Jersey areas. Playing with those musicians was some of the best times of my life. I played with that band until I was drafted into the army in February 11, 1964. I spent two years at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. My service was completed in 1966.

I married Joann Chrobocinski from our parish on November 5, 1966. We were married 31 years until her death on September 2, 1997. Joann and I enjoyed Polka music. We danced throughout the Lehigh Valley and the New England areas for many years. Joann retired from AT&T Lucent Technologies as an executive secretary and I retired from Agere

Systems (Bell Labs) as a specification engineer.

In the year 2001, I reconnected with Georgine Kelhart, a former classmate. She gave me my first kiss while attending Washington Junior High School when I was 12 years old. We were together for 10 years until her passing on January 18, 2011. I miss her very much.

I enjoy bass fishing and have my own bass boat. You can find me up at Black Lake in up-state New York in June and September with my brother Frank. Frank is in partnership in a demolition company in Bethlehem. In winter I spend my time in West Palm Beach, Florida. It's just too cold up here for me. I come back when the weather gets warmer.

I hope you enjoyed learning about me and my family. It was fun putting this down on paper.

ANS Plans Annual Christmas Dinner

The annual Christmas Dinner sponsored by the ANS will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 12:00 noon. Mass that day will be celebrated at 10 AM. The cost of the dinner is \$ 8.00 for adults and \$ 5.00 for children 6 to 12. The menu is as following: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Corn Casserole, Pickled Beets, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee or Tea, and Wine for a toast. We will also hold a raffle at the dinner. The cost of the raffle tickets is 3 for \$2.00. Join our parish family and help celebrate the beginning of the Joyous Christmas season.

December at a Glance

- Mass at 9 AM
- Sunday School after Mass**
- Coffee Social after Mass
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM**
- December 8 – Mass 10 AM**
- Christmas Dinner**
- December 14 – Ladies Christmas Social
- December 15 – Ladies meeting**
- December 17- Committee Meeting at Bull and Bear - 6:30 PM
- December 22 – Mass for the Children**
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Mass 8PM
- December 25 – Christmas Day 10 AM**

Bundle of Joy



Sara and Brent Sutton are happy to announce the arrival of their first child, Cameron James Sutton, on October 19, 2013

at 7:53 PM, weighing 6 lbs 14 oz and measuring 20 inches long. The proud grandparents, Raneer and Fran Anthony are delighted to welcome their third grandchild.

Congratulations to all.

History of the Decorated Christmas Tree



Why do we have a decorated Christmas Tree? In the 7th century Boniface, a monk, from Crediton, Devonshire, England went to Germany to teach the Word of God. He did many good works there, and

spent much time in Thuringia, an area which was to become the cradle of the Christmas Decoration Industry.

Legend has it that Boniface, who later became the patron saint of Germany, used the triangular shape of the Fir Tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The converted people began to revere the Fir tree as God's Tree, as they had previously revered the Oak. By the 12th century it was being hung, upside-down from ceilings at Christmastime in Central Europe, as a symbol of Christianity.

The first decorated tree was at Riga in Latvia, in 1510. In the early 16th century, Martin Luther is said to have decorated a small Christmas Tree with candles, to show his children how the stars twinkled through the dark night.

The custom gained popularity throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, against the protests of some clergy. They felt that the symbol distracted people from the true evergreen tree, Jesus Christ. But this did not stop many churches from setting up Christmas trees inside the sanctuary. Alongside the tree often stood wooden "pyramids," stacks of shelves holding candles, sometimes one for each family member. Eventually the pyramids of candles were placed on the tree, the ancestors of our modern Christmas tree lights and ornaments.

Pastor's Corner



Financial Corner



Dear Friends,

Talking about Christmas, the mystery of our faith makes us happy and amazed. We feel happy, because we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with thousands of lights, decorated Christmas trees, and gifts for each other. We feel so amazed and so touched by love of God the Father who sent his beloved son to save us from our sins, and to give us a new life. The words of St. John remind us about that (Jn 3, 16): *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

During upcoming four weeks of Advent, we will be preparing our hearts to receive the most beautiful gift of God, His son – Jesus Christ. For this blessed time of preparation, and for this special time of our spiritual reflection on God's love and humility, I send you this blessing:

You believe that the Son of God once came to us;
You look for him to come again.
May his coming bring you the light of his holiness
And his blessing brings you freedom. Amen

May God make you steadfast in faith,
Joyful in hope, and untiring in love
All the days of your life. Amen

You rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us as man.
When he comes again in glory,
May he reward you with endless life. Amen

Blessings,
Fr. Bogdan

	Contributions	Expenses
November	\$3,002.00	\$4,393.05
Fall Bazaar	\$7,777.40	\$ 227.40
Lottery Calendar	\$ 700.00	
Pierogie Sales	\$ 558.00	

Bazaar Bonanza



If all the pierogies, stuffed cabbages, and kiffles were gone by 10:35 am, and most of the rolls and other goodies including the kitchen and take-out orders were sold out by noon, we could certainly say that the bazaar was a great success. The

fund-raising committee and other parishioners worked diligently for weeks preparing for the big event. Even the "white elephant" table broke records for their total sales.

The final breakdown is as follows:

Nut Rolls.....	\$1,309.00
White Elephant.....	\$ 417.90
Kielbasi.....	\$ 414.00
Crafts/Polish Heritage....	\$ 580.50
Eat-In.....	\$ 455.00
Take-Out.....	\$ 673.00
Chinese Auction.....	\$ 718.00
Baked Goods.....	\$1,054.00
Pierogies.....	\$ 812.00
Contributions.....	\$1,105.00

Additional sales made the following days netted \$239.00

Interstate Driving



A state trooper sees a vehicle on the interstate doing 24 miles an hour and pulls the car over to make sure everything is all right. When he approaches the driver he discovers that it is a nun. "Excuse me, sister. But are you all right? He asked. She replies, "Oh, yes officer. We're just fine. Was I doing something wrong?" The officer says "Well sister, you were traveling way under the speed limit and I was concerned that you might be having car trouble or something." "But officer, the nun interrupts, I saw a sign there about a mile back that said 24, and I know I wasn't going faster than that." Chuckling, the trooper says, "Sister, that was a state highway route marker, this is State Route 24, not the speed limit. The speed limit signs have a MPH at the bottom." "Oh, now don't I feel foolish!" replied the nun turning red. "That's okay, but please be more careful. I would hate to see you get hurt," finished the officer. Then as he turns to say good-by to the nuns in the back seat, he notices for the first time that they are trembling violently and quite pale. "Sister, what is wrong with your friends? Can I escort you to a hospital?" "Oh no, they're all right. We just turned off Route 135."

Ladies Christmas Social

The ANS and Society of Friends are sponsoring a "Ladies Christmas Social" for all the women of the church at 12 noon on Saturday December 14, 2013. JoAnn Schaffer is again hosting this covered dish get-together at her home. Along with great food, and good fellowship, there will be some games and prizes.

Please remember to sign-up on the sheet in the narthex of the church. Hope to see all the women of the parish there.

Russian Teacakes or Snow Balls

- 1 cup soft butter
- 1/2 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup finely chopped nuts (walnuts or pecans)



Mix butter, sugar and vanilla. Blend flour and salt and stir in. Mix in nuts. Chill. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Roll into 1 inch balls. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes. While still warm, roll in confectioners' sugar. Cool. Roll in sugar again. Makes about 4 dozen

Lovely little cookies that are perfect for parties.

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.