



Parish Tidings



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

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Cornerstones



Hank Kudzik

I was born Henry "Hank" Kudzik 88 years ago on January 10, 1925 in a rural area of Bethlehem, PA known as the Coke

Works. Both of my parents came from Poland but were married here. My mother had two husbands; the first was killed on the railroad. She had three girls and one boy with him; of course they were my stepsisters and brother. Her second husband was my father and she had four children with him, two girls and two boys. My stepsisters and brother's name was Tokarczyk and my name was Kurdziel. Then why am I using the name of Kudzik? Read closely or you may become confused. My dad signed up for a job at the Bethlehem Steel Company. Speaking only Polish and no English, he was asked his name. "Stanislaw Kurdziel" was his reply. When shown his name on the signup sheet he agreed that the name was his. The name on the application was Andy J. Kudzik, a manufactured name that I was stuck with all my life. I used it in the service and I got married with it. When my mom went to become a naturalized citizen she was asked how many children she had with her second husband. She answered four, two girls and two boys. They said their records showed only one boy, I was missing.

We started going to our church which was located at 5th and Williams Street in 1932. I served as an acolyte for Father Edward Abramski, a wonderful priest and teacher. He served two parishes; the other one in Allentown. I attended Polish school every Saturday where we learned to speak and sing in Polish; a must because the entire church service was in Polish. These were very poor times, so poor that the church could not pay the pastor. There was no money to buy coal to heat the church on Sunday. My dad, a good man, carried sacks of coke from his job at the coke works so the church could be heated for Sunday Mass. We had many activities – church plays, choir events, parades, picnics and dances.

Central Park was a favorite place to go by trolley as was the Hellertown Air Field to watch the dare devils. We rode the trolley if we had a nickel, remember I said we were poor. It was hard trying to get a dime for the movies on Saturday. Our favorite theater was the Lehigh, which we called the "Bug House". A great theater, we would spend the entire Saturday there. I loved it.

I went to every school in Bethlehem except two, Nitchman and Broughal. In grade school I won an art contest. When I told my teacher I could not attend the award ceremony at the Hotel Bethlehem, she picked me up in her vehicle and took me for my monetary award and certificate.

I enlisted into the Navy just after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941 and was soon on a submarine at the Battle of Midway. This was the beginning of my submarine career which lasted 12 years. I'm lucky to have survived. I've been asked on occasion why I joined the Navy. My reply is always "Five sisters but only one bathroom".

On October 6, 1945 I was married to Jacqueline Dawn Boemio in our church on Williams Street by Father Jan Pietroski. We will soon celebrate 68 years together. Jackie's father was Italian and her mother Pennsylvania Dutch. She was Episcopalian but liked our poor church. Where did I meet Jackie? When I was home on leave, each of my sisters set me up with a blind date. Jackie was the last of the five I went out with but first in my heart. If you saw the movie "An Officer and a Gentleman", our romance began similarly. In the movie, the officer found his true love working at a defense plant just like Jackie. He picked her up and carried her out. True love indeed, ours was just slightly different. We walked out together. Those were great times. Our wedding reception had its difficulties. Even with all our coupons and rationing, it was difficult to buy anything, much less plan a wedding reception, and remember this was war time. I with my uniform on managed to acquire all that was needed for the dinner. Our honeymoon was a train trip to California. (Last summer we

recreated the same trip and visited our daughter in San Diego.) I was still in the Navy and my submarine was there. Jackie loved living in a Quonset hut and having all those sailors whistling at her.

When I was 14, I started playing the saxophone. After the war I play in my brother's polka band. I later started my own band known as the "The Internationals". We were the first band to play at the Ukrainian Club and entertained at many weddings and other social events.

Our family consists of two daughters, three granddaughters and one grandson. Our great grandchildren will soon number three. Jackie and I love them all. There are many more stories to tell but my pen just ran out of ink.

60th Wedding Anniversary



On January 10, 2013 Nick and Janina Martucci celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Sunday mass on January 13 was celebrated for their intention with special prayers of joy and thanksgiving. They were honored with a luncheon given by their family for all who shared this special day. Nick and Janina have 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. We congratulate them and wish many more years of good health and happiness.

February at a Glance

Sunday Mass at 9 AM

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

February 10 - ANS & Society of Friends meeting

**February 13 – Ash Wednesday
6:30 PM service**

February 16 & 17 - Pierogi making

February 24 – Yearly Parish

Meeting after Mass

Pastor's Corner



Dear Friends,

The season of Lent is a Catholic liturgical season consisting of forty days of fasting, prayer, and penitence beginning at Ash Wednesday and concluding at sundown on Holy Thursday.

Many Catholics were taught as children to "give up something" for Lent. The sacrifices in Lent are really penance, in the same spirit as the Ninevites that repented at the preaching of Jonah. Throughout our history, Christians have found prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to be an important part of repentance and renewal.

Many Catholics now add something during Lent rather than giving up something, either to address personal habits that need work or to add some outreach to others in need. The Catholic Church, in an attempt to help Catholics do at least a minimum during Lent, asks all Catholics to fast and abstain from meat on certain days - Fridays. Fasting means to limit food to one full meal a day with the possibility of two smaller meals (not adding up to a full meal) as needed.

Catholics, 14 years of age or older should abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. If one's work or health makes it inadvisable to fast or abstain from meat, they are not obligated to do so.

The official liturgical color for the season of Lent is violet. Lent begins on February 13, 2013 – Ash Wednesday with the thoughts from Genesis: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return, but your soul returns to God."

Father Bogdan

YMS of R Pizza Party

On Tuesday January 15, 2013 the members of the YMS of R attended their annual "night out." The reason for this event was to celebrate and reward themselves for another successful year running their weekly Bingo game. Bingo night on Wednesday has been held over the past 17 years. These men have been working, giving of their time, and in doing so serving the good of the church by donating large sums of money to the general fund. The men have been enjoying this traditional dinner for the past ten years at the Crossroads Restaurant in Hellertown, which is famous for its pizza. Those in attendance were their fearless leader, Joe Jurnock, Joe Bartone, John Wunderler, Fran Anthony, Charlie Kovacs, John Sydorak, and Father Bogdan. The men enjoyed spaghetti and meatballs, steak sandwiches, pizza and a few brews. A good time was had by all.

Spring Bazaar

Our Annual Spring Bazaar will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2013. Any new ideas or suggestions for this event are welcomed. The donation slips will be available on February 10. Please remember to pick up your donation form, fill it out and return this form as soon as possible to Nancy Poposki, Andrea Gritman, or place in the Bazaar Box in the Narthex.

Lucky Day

On January 6, 2013 the second chance drawing from the 2012 Lottery Calendars was held. Congratulations to Cindy Weller, the lucky \$100 winner and \$100 seller. We know her prize money will be put to good use.

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.

St. Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day also called Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine is observed on February 14 each year. St Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more Christian saints named Valentinus. The most popular story associated with Saint Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry, and for ministering to Christians who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. During his imprisonment he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer and before his execution, according to the legendary account he wrote "from your Valentine" as a farewell to her. Today, St. Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican and Lutheran Churches. The Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrates Saint Valentine's Day, but on July 6, the date in honor of the Roman presbyter, Saint Valentine.

Today's association with romantic love stems from the 15th century when lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery and sending greeting cards known as "valentines" very similar to today's traditions. Newer Valentine Day symbols of love that are used today include heart-shaped outlines, doves, and the winged cupid. Since the 19th century handwritten valentines have given way to mass produced greeting cards. Don't forget your special valentine this year.

Valentine's Day Dream



After she woke up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?" You'll know tonight," he said. That evening the husband came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it -- to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

Valentine Sweethearts



Hank and Jackie Kudzik
our longest married couple



Evan Weller and Ashley Tait
soon to be newlyweds

Potato Pancakes

- 1 1/2 lbs. potatoes
- 1 small onion
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt; dash of pepper
- 4 oz. butter or oil or Crisco

Peel the potatoes and grate them into a bowl. Grate the onion into the bowl. Add the flour, baking powder, beaten eggs, salt and pepper. Mix until well blended. Add a little more flour if mixture is too thin. Drop about two tablespoons of mixture per pancake into medium hot fat in a frying pan. Fry on both sides until golden brown and crisp. Serve with sour cream.

This favorite dish of Hank Kudzik is from the second edition of the Polish National American Cook Book (red cover).