



# Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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## Saint Valentine



Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14. Although not much of Saint Valentine's life is reliably known and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that Saint Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome.

One common story about Saint Valentine is that in one point in his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put him and his faith to the test. Saint Valentine was presented with the judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for him. Valentine, placing his hands onto her eyes, restored the child's vision. Judge Asterius was humbled and obeyed Valentine's requests. He broke all the idols around his house, fasted for three days, and became baptized along with his family and 44 members of his household. The newly faithful judge then freed all of his Christian inmates.

Saint Valentine was later arrested again for continuing to try to convert people to Christianity. The story tells that Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war, and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. A relationship between the saint and emperor began to grow until Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. Claudius became enraged and sentenced him to death commanding him to renounce his faith. He refused and was executed on February 14, 269. On the day of his execution, he left the judge's cured daughter a note which he signed, "Your Valentine."

Saint Valentine is the Patron Saint of engaged couples, happy marriages, love, lovers, bee keeping, epilepsy, fainting, travelers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses, and his Feast Day is February 14.

## ANS Holds Election

When the ANS met for the first time this year on January 8, 2017, an election of officers was held. The results were as following:

- President - Jackie Bayak
- Vice President - Mia Ferdnandes
- Secretary - Jo Ann Schaffer
- Treasurer - Nancy Poposki

The ANS meets on the first Sunday of the month. New members welcome.

## January Birthdays



On January 15, 2017, the ANS provided a birthday cake honoring the many parishioners celebrating their January birthdays. Congratulations to Hank Kudzik, Tara Broczkowski, Jenna DeVito, Jo Ann Schaffer, Kira Mohr, Evan Weller, Frank Matla, Jackie Bayak, Marilyn Kovacs and Barbara Frisch.



Sto Lat!

This year the ANS will provide a birthday cake on the second Sunday of each month honoring parishioners celebrating their birthday. Please inform any member of the ANS the month before your birthday.

## Blessing of the Wine



One of the Polish customs of the Christmas season is the blessing of wine on the Feast of Saint John during the Christmas Octave. The wine is blessed in honor of Saint John, who without harm, drank the poisoned wine offered by his enemies.

## Renewal of Baptismal Vows



During Mass on Sunday, January 15, 2017, the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, all in attendance renewed their baptismal vows. On this day, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own.

## February at a Glance

- Sunday Mass at 9 AM
- Coffee Social after Mass**
- Religious Classes after Mass - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each Month
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM**
- February 5 - ANS Meeting
- February 7 - Roll baking**
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 17&18 - Tentative pierogi making**
- February 28 - Tentative roll baking  
\*\*\*\*\*
- March 1 - Ash Wednesday - 6:30 PM**
- Stations of the Cross - 6:30 PM - Fridays during Lent

## Emergency Numbers

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. When in sorrow                       | call John 14          |
| 2. When you have sinned                 | call Psalm 51         |
| 3. When you worry                       | call Matthew 6:19-34  |
| 4. When you are in danger               | call Psalm 91         |
| 5. When your faith needs stirring       | call Hebrews 11       |
| 6. When you feel down and out           | call Romans 8:31      |
| 7. When you want peace and rest         | call Matthew 11:25-30 |
| 8. When the world seems bigger than God | call Psalm 90         |
| 9. If your pockets are empty            | call Psalm 37         |
| 10. When you are lonely and fearful     | call Psalm 23         |
| 11. When you grow bitter and critical   | call 1 Corinthians 13 |
| 12. For how to get along with others    | call Romans 12        |
| 13. If you are depressed                | call Psalm 27         |
| 14. If people seem unkind               | call John 15          |

## Around the Parish

- The 2017 donations envelopes and the 2016 tax receipts are available in the narthex of the church.
- 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 our many parishioners who continue to supply the church with flour for our fund-raising projects. A special thanks to Alice Aronson for her extraordinary contributions of flour, eggs, butter, sour cream, Crisco and onions.
- Preparation for the Spring Bazaar has started. Any new ideas or suggestions for this event are welcomed. White Elephant items may be brought to the church any time.

## 2016 Lottery

On January 1, 2017, the second chance drawing from the 2016 lottery calendars was held. Congratulations to Jim Lokay JR, the lucky \$100 winner and Joe Jurnock the \$100 seller. During 2016, 196 lottery calendars were sold and there were 76 winners. Several parishioners donated their winnings to the church and one member bought three lottery calendars in the church's name that resulted in three winning numbers. The cost of printing the calendars, envelopes and stamps were also donated increasing our profit. Starting with a balance of \$789.90 plus \$4,900.00 calendar sales and \$250.00 in donations minus a payout of \$2,075.00 resulted in a profit of \$3,800 donated to the church and a starting balance of \$64.90 in the account for 2017. Although the number of calendar sales continues to decrease, this fundraiser remains only behind the Spring and Fall Bazaars in profit.

Thanks to all who purchased and sold calendars and to Andrea Gritman and Jackie Bayak for running this fundraiser.

## Bundle of Joy



Ron Trawinski is happy to announce the arrival of his first grandchild, Emilia Helen Levi, on January 4, 2017, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 19½ inches long. The proud parents are Katie and Peter Levi of Clifton, NJ. Congratulations to all.

## What Love means to 4-8 year old kids



Slow down for three minutes to read this. A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does love mean?'

The answers they got were broader, deeper, and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined! See what you think:

When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love. Rebecca- age 8

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth. Billy - age 4

Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other. Karl - age 5

Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs. Chrissy - age 6

Love is what makes you smile when you're tired. Terri -age 4

Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK. Danny - age 8

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen. Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate. Nikka - age 6 (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet.)

Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day. Noelle- age 7

Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well. Tommy - age 6

My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night. Clare - age 6

## Chocolate-Cherry Snowballs

- 1 cup butter, softened
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (8 oz) candied cherries, finely chopped
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips



1. Heat oven to 400°F. In large bowl, beat butter with electric mixer on medium speed until fluffy. Gradually beat in 1/2 cup powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Stir in almond extract. In medium bowl, mix flour and salt. On low speed, beat flour mixture into butter mixture until well blended. Stir in cherries.
2. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. On ungreased cookie sheet, place balls 2 inches apart.
3. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until edges just begin to brown. Cool slightly. Measure 1/2 cup powdered sugar into small bowl. Roll each cookie in powdered sugar. Place on cooling rack to cool completely.
4. Place chocolate chips in small resealable freezer plastic bag. Microwave on High 45 to 60 seconds, turning bag over every 20 seconds. Squeeze bag until chips are melted and smooth. Cut small tip off one corner of bag, and drizzle over cooled cookies. Let stand at room temperature at least 30 minutes until chocolate hardens before storing.

*This easy to make recipe makes a nice Valentine's Day treat.*