



Parish Tidings

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Annual Christmas Dinner



The traditional parish Christmas dinner sponsored by the ANS was held after 10:00 mass on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Even with the threat of snow over thirty people attended and were treated to a delicious roast beef dinner. Father Bogdan gave the blessing and shared the Oplatek with everyone present.

The lucky raffle winners were Walter Baransky, John Sydorak, and Andrea Gritman. The red poinsettias centerpiecees were also given as door prizes.

Parish Committee



For the fourth consecutive year Our Lord's Ascension parish committee held its December meeting at the Bull and Bear Restaurant on Thursday, December 19, 2013. After Father Bogdan offered the blessing and Dan Broczkowski gave the toast, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and a fun night. The pierogie appetizer was shared by several members and described as delicious.

Rev. E. Louis Czechowski

With deep sorrow we share the news of the passing of Rev. E. Louis Czechowski, pastor of Our Lord's Ascension Parish from 1954 to 1967.

The Adoption of our Calendar



Our Gregorian calendar was ordered into existence by a pope, but it has its roots with Julius Caesar. Julius Caesar instituted the model for what our calendar is based on in 45 B.C. when he approved what was called the Julian calendar. That calendar consisted of 11 months of 30 or 31 days each with 28 days in February. It was quite accurate for its time, but it had a major flaw.

The calendar was off from the real solar year (the time it takes the Earth to circle the sun) by 11 minutes. Over the centuries, that added up.

By the late 1500s, the Julian calendar was off by 10 days from the solar year. So, in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII approved a new calendar that included 365 days and a leap year every four years.

To catch up with the sun, the pope ordered the calendar to advance by 10 days. Not every country immediately accepted the pope's decree. It took the British Act of 1751 to bring England and the American colonies into the fold. By then, the calendar was off by 12 days. That adjustment was made the following year, Britain and the colonies went to sleep on September 2, 1752 and woke up to September 14, 1752. The Gregorian calendar is only 26 seconds different from a true solar year. That adds up to only one day every 3,323 years.

New Year's Wish

May God grant you
12 months of happiness,
52 weeks of fun,
365 days of success,
8,760 hours of good health,
525,600 minutes of good luck
And 31,536,000 seconds of joy

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Congratulations



After his 11th season as head coach of the Phillipsburg High School boys soccer team, Evan Weller guided his teams to its best season in its 33-year history and was named the 2013 Express-Times Boys Soccer Coach of the Year.

Phillipsburg finished with its most victories in a season, going 14-5-3. It won its first conference title of any kind and advanced in the NJSIAA tournament for the first time while setting all kinds of school records.

Christmas 2013



Reminiscent of "Christmas Past" the youth of the parish dressed in traditional caroling apparel sang several Christmas carols before mass on Christmas Eve. Pictured above are Barbara Yurchishin, Magda Yurchishin, Madison Passaro, and David Broczkowski. In addition to the great choir the beautiful sounds of Christmas were performed by Tara Broczkowski on the piano, Beverly Wunderlich on the clarinet, Jenna DeVivo on the flute, and Dan Broczkowski on the trumpet.

January at a Glance

Mass at 9 AM
Sunday School after Mass
Coffee Social after Mass
Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

January 4 – Ladies Covered Dish
January 10 & 11 – Pierogie Making
January 19 – Ladies Meeting
January 21 – Committee Meeting 6:30 PM
January 26 – Mass for the Children

Pastor's Corner



My Friends,

The Word became flesh. Christ came to live among us. When we enjoy the Christmas season and the New Year 2014, we have to remember:

"He came not to a throne, but to a manger. He lived not as a king, but as a servant. He chose not a kingdom, but a cross. He gave not just a little, but everything." (Holley Gerth).

Father Bogdan

End of Year Round-Up (Kudos to All)



As the new year begins we reflect on 2013 and the efforts of many of the members of our parish who participated in a cooperative attitude to promote our necessary fund raising. We thank everyone who has contributed their time and talents.

There is a fund raising committee whose members are Nancy Poposki, Walter Poposki, Mary Ann Bartone, Andrea Gritman, and Jackie Bayak. They work diligently throughout the year, but especially for the fall and spring bazaars. They report that \$14,398.50 has been realized from these two events.

For the third consecutive year our church booth at Coopersburg Community Day was a huge success. The net profit was \$1,566.50.

The YMS of R whose dedicated members run Bingo every Wednesday have raised funds which they donate to the parish. In 2013 \$1,000.00 was used toward decreasing the debt owed to the diocese for previous years parish dues.

Joe Junock's lottery calendar project that he manages netted \$3,325.00 for the cause.

The men and women who prepare and make pierogies on the average of once a month have sold 816 dozen. That is to say, 9,792 hand-crafted "gems" were produced. Profits were \$1,878.00 in addition to the bazaar sales. During the past year all ingredients, except the potatoes and cheese were donated by our parishioners increasing our profits.

The Society of Friends make rolls seasonally. For the fall and spring bazaars they have donated 217 rolls to be sold.

The ANS and the Society of Friends have had fund raising events and dinners which enable them to donate monies for needed items. The main reason for the parish dinners is not for fund raising, but for church celebrations and fellowship. The sale of Boscov's discount shopping passes netted \$530.00, which was shared by both societies. The Society of Friends will donate half the cost of the microphone used by the children during church services.

Although the Coffee Social is not a fundraiser, the monies donated each Sunday are used to purchase the paper supplies for the kitchen and restrooms. Some of this money was used to purchase 2 new coffeepots. Several members have also been generous in donating coffee and paper supplies.

Ladies Social

Due to inclement weather the Ladies Christmas Social has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 4, 2014, 12 noon at Jo Ann Schaffer's home. All the ladies of the church are welcome to this covered dish get-together.

The Final Exam



When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.'"

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

1. What two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"
2. How many seconds are in a year?
3. What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

Easy Beef Vegetable Soup

- 1 lb. diced beef cubes
- 2 quarts beef broth
- 1 14.5 can diced tomatoes
- 1 onion chopped
- 16 oz. frozen mixed vegetables
- Bay leaf
- Salt and pepper



- Brown beef and onion
- Add all other ingredients
- Bring to a boil then simmer for 2 hours

Taste even better the second day

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.