



Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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New Years Celebrations Around the World



As the clock strikes twelve on December 31, the entire world gets immersed in celebrations. Even for New Year celebrations, variety adds spice as different parts of the world have their exclusive customs, traditions and rituals to welcome the New Year with zest and positive thoughts.



England: The English custom for welcoming a New Year is full of hospitality and warmth. They believe that the first guest for the year would bring fortune. He should be a male, enter the front door and bear some traditional gifts like a loaf of bread for the kitchen, drink for the head of the family and coal to light the fire, otherwise he is not allowed in. They believe these bring good luck throughout the year.



Denmark: In Denmark, residents keep a pile of dishes, all broken, in front of the door. People usually throw these on the friends' doors during New Year. This symbolizes friendship and brotherhood and they believe the one with the most dishes outside, has the most friends. Some Danish are found to leap over chairs during midnight.



China: The Chinese paint their front door red which symbolizes happiness and good fortune. They hide all their knives for the day so that no one cuts oneself, because that may actually cut the entire family's good luck for the coming year.



Brazil: Brazilians believe that lentils signify wealth and prosperity. So, they serve food

items made up of the legume like soup or rice on New Year's Day. On New Year's Eve, they send a sacrificial boat filled with jewelry, candles and flowers from the beach of Rio de Janeiro. It is pushed into the ocean which they believe brings health, wealth and happiness for them.



Germany: Lead is considered to be auspicious here. They pour molten lead into cold water and the shape that is taken after, predicts the future. Heart shapes symbolize marriage whereas round shapes denote good luck; anchor shapes tell that you need help however, a cross signifies someone's sad demise.



Poland: New Year's Day and New Year's Eve, known as Sylwester (St Silvester's Day) marks the start of the carnival period which features celebratory events like balls and parties. A fun tradition is the kulig (sleigh rides). Many celebrate with dances, concerts, and meals featuring traditional Polish dishes including bigos (hunter's stew).

Lesser Know Saints

Saint Elizabeth Seton



Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton of South Carolina was the first native-born citizen of the United States to be canonized.

This was performed by Pope Paul VII on September 14, 1975. She was born August 28, 1774 and died January 4, 1821 which became her feast day. She became the patron of in-law problems and the health and education of children.

She grew up in the upper class of New York society. She was a prolific

reader and read everything from the Bible to contemporary novels. As she grew a little older, the Bible was to become her continual instruction, support and comfort. In 1794 she married the wealthy William Seton. After a few years of happiness William's father died, leaving the young couple in charge of William's seven half brothers and sisters as well as the family's importing business. Unfortunately, both his business and health were failing. They moved to Italy for William's health, but he died of tuberculosis shortly after.

She turned her heart to God's will. Having lost her mother at an early age, Elizabeth felt great comfort in the idea that the blessed Virgin was truly her mother. At the suggestion of the president of St. Mary's College in Baltimore, Maryland, Elizabeth started a school which became the first free Catholic school. She then began plans for sisterhood. Provisions were made to continue raising her children. On March 25, 1809, she pronounced her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. From that time on she was called Mother Seton. With the other sisters, they established another school and two orphanages. Today, six groups of sisters can trace their origins to Mother Seton's initial foundations.

January at a Glance

Sunday Mass at 9 AM

Coffee Social after Mass

Religious Classes after Mass – 2nd and 4th Sunday of each Month

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

January 1- Blessing of wine after Mass

January 6 - Epiphany

January 8 – ANS Meeting - election of officers

January 20, 21 - Tentative pierogi making

Caroline Broczkowski



With deepest sorrow, we announce the passing of Caroline Broczkowski on December 26, 2016. A longtime parishioner, Caroline will always be remembered for her participation in church activities.

Caroline will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with her sons, Mark, Daniel, and Edward and their families.

Christmas Season Around the Parish

- The traditional parish Christmas dinner sponsored by the ANS was held after the 10:00 AM mass on Sunday, December 11, 2016, the third Sunday in Advent. All in attendance were treated to a delicious pork dinner and scrumptious desserts. Father Bogdan gave the blessing and shared the Oplatek with everyone present. Dan Broczkowski gave the toast. Jackie Bayak supplied reindeer ornaments for all. Lucky raffle winners were Joe and Barb Jurnock, Gerry Matla, Stephanie Czuba, Andrea and Jerry Gritman, Magda Yurchishin, Dan Broczkowski, Walter Poposki, Mary Ann and Joe Bartone, Jo Ann Schaffer and Sonia Kotch.
- During Mass on Sunday, December 11, 2016, parishioners placed ornaments in remembrance of loved ones on a tree located on St. Joseph's side of the altar. Part of the tree was adorned with vintage Christmas ornaments from Poland.
- This year's Christmas Eve performance featured the beautiful sounds of Christmas performed by Jenna DeVivo on the flute, Dan Broczkowski on the trumpet, David Broczkowski on the clarinet and a duet by father and son Dan and David Broczkowski. As a special treat a beautiful solo performance of



"O Holy Night" was sung by David Broczkowski.

- On Christmas Day, our organist, Mark Bennett sang "Mary, Did You Know" during communion.
- The sixth annual Holiday Covered Dish Luncheon was held on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at Jo Ann Schaffer's home. Sponsored by the members of the ANS, all the women of the church were invited. Along with Father Bogdan, the ladies enjoyed good food, fun, games and everyone went home with a prize.
- On Tuesday, December 13, 2016, the Y.M.S. of R held their Annual Holiday Gathering at The Crossroads in Hellertown. Everyone enjoyed themselves and look forward to working together again next year.
- For the seventh year, Our Lord's Ascension parish committee combined its December meeting with a social evening out. This year's outing was held at Prime Steak House in Bethlehem on Monday, December 19, 2016. After Father Bogdan offered the blessing and Dan Broczkowski gave the toast, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and a fun night.

Wednesday Night Bingo

During the past year, several members of the ANS have joined the YMS of R Bingo staff on Wednesday evenings

helping out in the kitchen. This mutual cooperation has benefited both groups, freeing the men from the kitchen work thus allowing them to use their time helping the bingo players and allowing the women to earn some additional funds for their organization. Starting in January, Renae Kudzik Behrens and Mia Fernandes will be joining Jackie Bayak, Lynn Wunderler, Nicolette Stavrovsky, Barbara Frisch, Nancy Poposki, Beverly Wunderlich, Mary Ann Bartone and Andrea Gritman. Working in pairs each twosome volunteers once every five weeks. Remember you do not have to be a member of either group to help out. Contact any member of either society if you are interested in helping out.

The Worth of Money?



An old dollar bill and an even older twenty-dollar bill arrive at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired.

"I've had a pretty good life," the twenty says. "I've been to Vegas, the finest restaurants in New York, and even on a Caribbean cruise."

"You did have an exciting life!" the dollar says.

"Where have you been?" the twenty asks.

"Oh, I've been to the Methodist church, the Baptist church, spent some time with the Lutherans..."

"Wait," the twenty interrupts. "What's a church?"

Joe's Meatballs

- 3 lbs. meatloaf mix
- 1 lb. ground chuck
- ½ cup moistened bread crumbs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 3 eggs
- 1 tbsp. parsley flakes
- 2 toes or cloves garlic (crushed)
- 2/3 cup Romano Cheese



Mix all together and make balls.

Fry in a little olive oil.

After they're fried put the meatballs in the sauce and let them simmer about 3 hours.

Joe's Spaghetti Sauce

- 1 - 1 lb. can Tomato Puree plus 1 can of water (wash out can) – mix together
- 1 – 12 oz can of Tomato Paste plus 1 can of water (wash out can) plus 1 cup of water - mix together
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 2 whole cloves of garlic
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 bay leaves or 1 tbsp. ground
- 2 tbsp. oregano
- ½ cup of grated Romano Cheese

Cook for about one hour until the meatballs are done. Add the meatballs with some of the oil you fried them in. Simmer for about 3 hours. Remove the garlic and bay leaves before serving.

"Joe's Meatballs and Spaghetti Sauce" were a big hit at the charity bingo held last November. Joe Bartone has graciously agreed to share this family recipe with us.