



# Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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## Lesser Know Saints

### Saint Barnabas



Saint Barnabas is the Patron Saint of Cyprus, against hailstorms, and a peacemaker. What we know of Saint Barnabas is found in the New Testament. He was born a Jew in Cyprus and was named Joseph. As an adult, he sold his property and gave the proceeds to the Apostles, who gave him the name Barnabas. He lived with the earliest converts to Christianity in Jerusalem. He persuaded the community there to accept Paul as a disciple.

Barnabas was sent to Antioch, Syria to look into the community there. He brought Paul there from Tarsus. Together they brought Antioch's donation to the Jerusalem community during a famine and then returned to Antioch with John Mark, his cousin. The three went on a missionary journey through Cyprus. They were so violently opposed by the Jews that they decided to preach to the pagans. Paul and Barnabas parted ways and Barnabas returned to Cyprus with Mark. It is believed his rift with Paul was ultimately healed. Tradition has Barnabas preaching in Alexandria and Rome, and becoming the founder of the Cypriot Church. He was stoned to death at Salamis about the year 61 when the Bishop of Milan ordered it. The Epistle of Barnabas was long attributed to him, but modern scholarship now attributes it to a Christian in Alexandria between the years 70 and 100. The Acts of Barnabas once attributed to John Mark are now known to have been written in the fifth century. In pictures, he is depicted with a Pilgrim's staff, an olive branch and holding the Gospel of St. Matthew. His feast day is June 11.

## May Birthdays



On May 7, 2017, the ANS provided a birthday cake honoring the parishioners celebrating their April and May birthdays. Congratulations to Ranee Anthony, Mia Fernandes, Father Bogdan and John Sydorak.

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On May 21, Anna provided breakfast and cake to honor Father Bogdan on his 45<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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## Mother's Day Breakfast



A delicious breakfast buffet sponsored by the YMS of R was served after mass on Mother's Day, May 14, 2017. The menu included fresh fruit salad, pancakes, sausage, banana and chocolate cakes, orange juice and coffee. A special thanks to all the men who did a great job preparing this annual breakfast honoring the mothers of the parish.

## June at a Glance

**Sunday Mass at 9 AM**

Coffee Social after Mass

**Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM**

June 4 – 10:30 AM - Confirmation Mass

**June 18 – Father's Day Breakfast**

June 23&24 – Tentative Pierogi Making

## Confirmation

On Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 10:30 AM Mass, two members of our parish will receive the sacrament of Confirmation from our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki.

The confirmands are Barbara and Magda Yurchishin the daughters of Father Bogdan and Anna Yurchishin. Barbara has chosen Therese as her confirmation name and Cindi Weller as her sponsor. Magda's "Maggie" choice is Anastasia and Tara Broczkowski as her sponsor.

## Newsletter Anniversary



This issue marks the fifth anniversary of our "Parish Tidings." We have looked fondly at our history and heritage and the parish events that have brought our church family closer together. Last year a series called "Lesser Known Saints" was started. We thank those who have taken the time to share their stories with us. We would like to encourage more members to contribute in some way to continue with the success of the last five years. All comments and suggestions are welcome. Please submit any information to Jo Ann Schaffer or Andrea Gritman.

## Why Do We Celebrate Father's Day?

Father's Day is celebrated worldwide to recognize the contribution that fathers and father figures make to the lives of their children. This day celebrates fatherhood and male parenting. Although it is celebrated on a variety of dates worldwide, many countries observe this day on the third Sunday in June.

## Father's Day Wishes

Fathers everywhere,  
We honor you and wish to say  
May God's blessings be with you  
In a special way, today!

## Condolences

Members of Our Lord's Ascension Parish wish to offer our sympathies to Sonia Kotch and her family on the passing of her eldest son, Gregory Kotch. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sonia and her family.

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## Around the Parish

- Tickets are still available for the Friday, September 1, 7:05 PM game against the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders. The \$28.00 cost includes tickets to the game, an "all you can eat" buffet, unlimited soft drinks and a fireworks display. Signup sheets are on the bulletin boards in the narthex and social hall. Payments for the fun outing should be made to Joe Jurnock before July 30.
  - Thanks to Anna Yurchishin for planting the flowers at the entrance to the church.
  - Currently we have pierogies and nut, poppy seed and apricot rolls for sale. Please see Nancy Poposki or Andrea Gritman if you are interested in purchasing rolls (\$12.00) or pierogies (\$7.00).
  - We are thankful for the safe return of Jenna DeVivo after spending the spring semester in Cusco, Peru participating in the University of Pittsburgh Study Abroad program. This summer Jenna has an internship with Bike Pittsburgh and a research position in chemistry.
  - Kyle Martin, grandson of Rose Marie "Sarge" Brugger is the starting first baseman for the Reading Fightin Phils, the double-A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies.
  - Do you have a favorite hymn? A signup sheet is posted on the easel for anyone wishing to hear their desired hymns at a future date.
  - Volunteers are needed to lend a hand at bingo on Wednesday nights.
  - Thanks to our many parishioners who continue to supply the church with flour, sugar, eggs, Crisco, onions and other items used for our fund-raising projects.
  - Christine Kotch, granddaughter of Sonia Kotch graduated from Lehigh Carbon Community College with a degree in Physical Therapy.
  - Laszlo Grietzer, grandson of Marilyn Kovacs graduated from Northampton Community College with a degree in Auto Repair.
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## Father's Vacation



For the first time since Father Bogdan has assumed the cleric duties of our church, he, Anna, Barbara and Magda will take a 3-week trip to visit relatives in Poland. They will leave for this well-deserved vacation on June 10 with Father and Anna returning on July 2. Magda and

Barbara will travel to Russia to visit their maternal grandparents returning on August 20. Please pray for their safe return.

We welcome Deacon Joseph Kielbasa who will perform Sunday service while Father Bogdan is away.

## Restrooms

During the past few months, the narthex of our church has been the center of much activity. After many years of discussion both restrooms have been renovated. The former men's room will now be a gender-neutral restroom and the former ladies room has been converted to a gender-neutral handicap accessible restroom.

Thanks to the estate of the late Joseph Koczan, Jr. for funding this much need modernization and to John Wunderler. Without John's help this project could not have been accomplished.

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## Two Old Friends



Two old friends met one day after many years. One attended college and now was very successful. The other had not attended college and never had much ambition.

The successful one said, "How has everything been going with you?"

"Well, one day I opened the Bible at random, and dropped my finger on a word and it was oil. So, I invested in oil, and boy did the oil well gush. Then another day I dropped my finger on another word and it was gold. So, I invested in gold and those mines really produced. Now, I'm as rich as Rockefeller."

The successful friend was so impressed that he rushed to his hotel room, grabbed the Bible, flipped it open and dropped his finger on a page. He opened his eyes and his finger rested on the words, "Chapter Eleven."

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## Hamburger Barbecue



- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 2 Tbsps. brown sugar
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup of white vinegar
- 1 1/2 cups of ketchup
- 1 tsp. prepared mustard

Sauté ground beef with diced onion, diced green pepper, salt and pepper until meat is brown. Drain if necessary. Add ketchup, brown sugar, water, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar and mustard. Simmer until flavors have mixed about 10 to 15 minutes. Serve on soft hamburger rolls.

This easy and delicious Hamburger Barbecue recipe was submitted by Jo Ann Schaffer.