



Parish Tidings

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

Rev. Bogdan T. Jurczyszyn
ascensionpncc@verizon.net
Rectory: 610-865-1514
March 2014 Volume 2, No. 10

2105 Jennings Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Office: 610-694-0164
www.ourlordsascension.org

Our Grandparent's Visit



Father Bogdan, Anna, Lena & Nicholas

On January 16, our grandparents came from Kaluga, Russia to visit us for the first time in the U.S. When they came, we were very happy to see them and couldn't wait to show them where we live and all of the wonderful things in Bethlehem, PA. After all, it was their first time in the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Kudzik's daughter, Renee Behrens, took them on a tour of Bethlehem – we all learned a lot of new things about our city. We walked around Philadelphia too. We also showed them the Statue of Liberty as we went on a ferry from New York City. We also showed them our school - they really liked it! They were interested in how we live because some things are different here. In Russia, everyone walks and most people take buses, while we drive in cars! Also, they got to taste food they never tried before like Mexican and Chinese food.

Our winter this year was very cold. To keep us warm and toasty this winter, grandma brought us some warm lamb fur blankets as a gift – we love it! She read us fairytale stories in Russian as we sat next to the fireplace while snow was falling outside. We had such a glorious time and before we knew it, it was time for them to fly back to Russia. We were sad to see them leave, but we know they will come back to visit us again!

Magda & Barbara Yurchishin

Shrove Tuesday



The name Shrove comes from the old word "shrive" which means to confess. Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it is the last day before Lent. Throughout many parts of the world people indulge themselves and use up the foods that aren't allowed during Lent. In Great Britain and many other countries the day is called Pancake Tuesday as pancakes are the featured food. They contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent. Brazil, Venice, and New Orleans play host to some of the holiday's most famous public festivities such as costume balls and parades during Mardi Gras which means Grease or Fat Tuesday.

In the Lehigh Valley many people follow the Pennsylvania Dutch celebration of Fastnacht or Doughnut Day. The word translates to "Fast Night" in English. The tradition is to eat the very best foods, which are part of the German tradition, and lots of it before the Lenten fast. Fastnachts (pronounced fast-nokts) are doughnuts. There are three types of fastnachts, one made with yeast one made with baking powder, and one made with mashed potatoes and yeast. All are slightly crispy on the outside and not as sweet as standard doughnuts.

ANS Plans Anniversary Dinner

To celebrate the 117th anniversary of the establishment of the PNCC, the ANS will sponsor a dinner and raffle on Sunday, March 9, 2014 after the 10:30 mass. The cost of the dinner is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. The menu consists of meat loaf, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert and coffee or tea.

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. It is the beginning of six and a half weeks of repentance, fasting and abstinence in preparation for the most important Christian festival of Easter. According to the gospels, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert where he endured temptation by Satan. Of the 46 days until Easter, six are Sundays and are not included in the fasting period and are instead "feast" days during Lent.

Ashes are a symbol of repentance. It is also a reminder that we all come from ashes, and to ashes we all will return. The marking on the forehead with ashes marks the commitment to Jesus Christ and God.

In churches the priest first burns the palms that have been kept from last year's Palm Sunday. He mixes the ashes with holy water to make a grayish paste. The priest dips his thumb in the paste and uses it to make the sign of the cross on each person's head. Using ashes to mark the cross symbolizes that through Christ's death and resurrection, all Christians can be free from sin.

March at a Glance

- Mass at 9 AM
- Sunday School after Mass**
- Coffee Social after Mass
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM**
- Fridays during Lent – 6:30 PM
- Stations of the Cross
- March 2 — ANS Meeting
- March 5 – Ash Wednesday - 6:30 PM**
- March 9 – Day Light Savings Time
- Mass 10:30 AM
- Anniversary Dinner
- March 21 & 22 – Pierogie Making**
- March 25- Committee meeting 6:45 PM
- March 29 - Seniorate Meeting**
- Reading**
- March 30 – Children's Mass
- March 30 – Yearly Parish Meeting**
- Roll Making – to be announced
- Kiffle Making – to be announced

Pastor's Corner



Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you....

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you (Mt 6, 1-6.16-18).

My Dear Friends,

The holy time of Lent is upon us. I said holy because Jesus invites us to make this season special in our life. Lent is a season of reflection, re-evaluation, repentance and reconciliation. Lent is also a time of profound grace and we are invited to let that grace sink in, take root and change us. Through our observance of these days by listening to the Scripture from the Lenten liturgies and by participating in the traditional practices of the Church, we are invited, in this holy season, to be stripped down and cleansed from all the obstacles that keep us from seeing our true selves clearly; stripped down so that we may come to understand more powerfully the Love of God who embraces all of who we are.

There are many ways to enter into the spirit of the season and to "observe" these days. It is not so important what we do as it is important that we do something to make these days different from all the rest. One great way to enter into this season is by following the traditional practices of the Church which are: prayer (reflecting on Scripture), fasting (from certain food on Fridays, but also fasting from other things and activities), and almsgiving (not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents).

We will start our Lenten season from Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm. During each Friday we will have devotions of The Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm.

Father Bogdan

Condolences

Members of Our Lord's Ascension Parish wish to offer our sympathies to Karen Amate and her family on the passing of her father. Raymond Cwynar was a parishioner of St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton. Our thoughts and prayers are with Karen and her family.

Iron Pigs Baseball



For the third consecutive year, Joe Jurnock is organizing a parish outing to attend a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs baseball game. For the Friday, August 1, 2014, 7:05 PM game against the Rochester Red Wings, we will be seated in the PPL Picnic Patio. The \$27.00 cost includes an "all you can eat" buffet, unlimited soft drinks and a beautiful fireworks display.

At the beginning of April a sign-up sheet will be placed on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church. Payment deadline is June 22, 2014. Please pay Joe Jurnock by check made payable to YMS of R.

ANS Holds Election

At the first meeting of the reorganized ANS on Sunday, February 2, 2014, an election was held. The newly elected officers are:

President - Jackie Bayak
Vice President - Beverly Wunderlich
Secretary - Jo Ann Schaffer
Treasurer - Nancy Poposki

The Country Preacher



A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both legs.

With the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance the preacher prayed, "Oh, Lord, I'm so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish - make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me."

At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to his knees, clasped his paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: "Dear God, please bless this food I am about to receive."

Fastnachts

1 cup lukewarm milk
1 fresh yeast cake
¾ cup soft butter
2 Tablespoons sugar
6 eggs
6 cups flour
2 teaspoons salt



Dissolve yeast in lukewarm milk. Sift flour and salt in bowl. Make a hole in the center. Pour dissolved yeast and all other ingredients into the hole and mix until not sticky.

Cover and let rise until doubled. Punch down, then let rest for 10 minutes.

Roll out to about 1/4 inch and cut.

Let rise another 20 to 30 minutes.

Fry in deep fat until light brown,

While still hot, roll in sugar.

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.