



Parish Tidings



**Polish National
Catholic Church**
"through the years..."

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Cornerstones



Mary (Mania) Soltysiak

Mary Louise (Mania) Wadolny was born November 7, 1916 at 721 Ridge Street, Bethlehem, PA in a house built by her father. Her parents, Louise (Moskal) and Ferdinand Wadolny were born in Poland. Mary had four brothers, Alex, John, Fred, and the first born who died at birth.

Mary was always afraid of learning new experiences. She never learned to swim or ride a bike. She did take ballet lessons, which she loved. When Mary was preparing for First Holy Communion at the Polish Catholic Church on Hayes Street, some problem caused Mary's mother to leave the church and with the family joined the Polish National Catholic Church on Williams Street.

To be a secretary was what Mary had planned after graduation. However, when she completed 11th grade, she dropped out of school to get a job. Her brother Alex started college and the family needed extra income. Alex promised to send Mary to business school when he graduated. Her dream of becoming a secretary ended when Alex died in an automobile accident. As a teenager and young adult she sang in the church choir and performed Polish dances with a group from the church.

Mary married John W. Soltysiak on July 23, 1941 and they celebrated 68 years together. They met at a Polish dance in Bethlehem. They had one son, John S. (Salty) Soltysiak, 2 grandsons, 8 great grandchildren, 3 great great grandsons and several nieces and nephews.

All of her life Mary worked in one way or another. She worked at many sewing factories. She did housekeeping in private homes, cleaning at St. Michael's Polish Hall, and cleaning the church. She also took in wash, ironing, and sewing. When needed, she helped the Bethlehem Police by translating Polish for them.

Mary loved to cook, bake, and clean. She enjoyed Bingo, and traveling to Atlantic City to gamble for the day. Her soap operas were very enjoyable. She was president of the ladies society of St. Michael's Polish Hall for many years and enjoyed many happy days there. To become more independent she finally learned to drive after the age of 50. It took her 3 permits and 8 tries before passing the test. She was a careful driver, but was just too nervous when taking the test.

It seemed that Mary was always at the church doing something. As president of the ANS for over 50 years she felt it was her duty to have 6 members holding candles whenever we had Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. She cooked dozens of eggs for the Holy Thursday Agape Dinner after mass. It was the ANS that ran the pierogie project so she prepared the onions each time. Whenever there were dinners at church she made the sauerkraut. If it was a meatloaf dinner she helped make her famous meatloaf recipe. Her walnut torte could be found at all dinners and bake sales. She was in charge of the biggest fund raiser, the 20-20 club.

Mary could never say no to anyone; you could always count on her help. Her smile was contagious. Her brothers lovingly called her Florence Nightingale. At the age of 94, Mary died peacefully in the home she was born in on October 15, 2010 with her beloved niece, Joan Wadolny Yelovich and Joan's daughter, Courtney at her side.

Remembered by Joan Wadolny Yelovich

Outside Lights



In an extremely generous gesture five new outside security lights and their installation were donated by Ace Electric Inc. through the efforts of Ron Trawinski. John Wunderler spent several days supervising the installation. This improvement not only addresses a safety issue but the energy saving lights will help reduce our electric bill.

Thanks to Ron, John and Dave Maurer, president of Ace Electric Inc.

Bishop Nowicki to Attend Anniversary Celebration



On May 5, 2013 our parish will host Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki. He will participate in the celebration of our parish anniversary.

Our parish which was established eighty-six years ago in May, 1927 was named Our Lord's Ascension Parish. It was mainly because it was Sunday, May 22, four days before Ascension Day when Prime Bishop Hodur came to Bethlehem to consecrate the new parish and incorporate it into the Polish National Catholic Church. The church which was located at Fifth and Williams Streets in South Bethlehem served members from Bethlehem, Allentown, and near-by surrounding areas for forty-nine years. It was in 1975 when plans were made to purchase land to build a new church building on Jennings Street in North Bethlehem. A house located on Linden Street was purchased to serve as a rectory. In May, 1976 the congregation celebrated its new church home with Father Walter Poposki officiating at the first mass.

The priests who served our parish over the eighty-six years were:

- Rev. R. Zabek 1927 - 1929
- Very Rev. Edward Abramski 1929
- Rev. Joseph Rekas 1930 - 1932
- Very Rev. Edward Abramski 1932 - 1938
- Rev. Jan Zieba 1938
- Rev. Joseph Janik 1939 - 1941
- Rev. Stanley Molon 1941 - 1942
- Rev. Jan Piotrowski 1942 - 1953
- Rev. Karol W. Debowski 1953 - 1954
- Rev. E. Louis Czehowski 1954 - 1967
- Rev. Walter F. Thomas 1967 - 1970
- Rev. Bruno Danis 1970 - 1971
- Rev. Walter C. Poposki 1972 - 1992
- Rev. Paul Zomerfeld 1992 - 1996
- Rev. Carmen G. Bolock 1996 - 2009
- Rev. Bogdan T. Jarczyszyn 2009

May at a Glance

SOCL 9:15 AM – new time

Sunday Mass at 10 AM – new time

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

May 5 – Parish Anniversary Celebration

May 12 – Mother's Day Breakfast

May 17 & 18 - Pierogie making

May 19 – Women's meeting at 9 AM

May 21 – Parrish Committee meeting

Pastor's Corner

My Dear Friends,

May is a special month. Not only because I celebrate my birthday, but because this month is called the month of Mary, the Mother of God. In Poland people express their devotion to the Holy Mother by 'Majovka'. People in small towns and villages gather around the figures of the Holy Mother and Crosses which are standing in the public places, and they sing her songs and say prayers. We will also do this in our church by meditating on the place of Mary in the history of our salvation. We will follow her beautiful titles in the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary which are all taken from the Bible, and they described mystical names of Mary under different images: Gate of Heaven, Morning Star, Ark of the Covenant, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, etc. In the beginning of this month, I pray for you, by the words of an antiphon:



We fly to thy protection,
O holy Mother of God.
Despise not our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from all dangers
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Enjoy your spring,
Fr. Bogdan J.

The History of Mother's Day



The recent history of Mother's Day dates back to 1600's in England. Here a Mothering Sunday was celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of Lent to honor mothers. After a prayer service in church to honor the Virgin Mary, children brought gifts and flowers to pay tribute to their own mothers.

The idea of an official celebration of Mother's Day in the United States was first suggested by Julia Ward Howe in 1872. She was an activist, writer, and poet who became famous for writing the famous Civil War song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic". Howe suggested that June 2 be annually celebrated as Mother's Day and should be dedicated to peace. Her idea spread, but was later replaced by the Mother's Day holiday celebrated in May.

Anna Jarvis is recognized as the Founder of Mother's Day in the United States. Though she never married and never had children, she is known as the "Mother of Mother's Day," a title she earned for her inspiration to honor all mothers, living and dead. She gained this inspiration from her own mother who died in 1905. Anna resolved to fulfill her mother's desire of having a mother's day. To begin with she sent carnations for the church service in Grafton, West Virginia to honor her mother. Carnations were her mother's favorite flower and Anna felt that they symbolized a mother's pure love. Anna with her supporters wrote letters to people in positions of power, lobbying for an official declaration. The hard work paid off. By 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state and on May 8, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Financial Corner



	Income	Expenses
April	\$4,019.44	\$5,603.93

Happy Birthday, Father Bogdan

Wishing you another year full of blessings.



Sto Lat

May You Live a Hundred Years

The song "Sto Lat" is often sung at birthdays and name days in Poland and Polish families in the United States much like the "Happy Birthday" song in the U.S. "Sto Lat" is more versatile as it can also be heard at special events and occasions such as anniversaries, patriotic events and award ceremonies.

Sto Lat

Sto lat, sto lat, niech zyje zyje nam
Sto lat, sto lat, niech zyje zyje nam
Jeszcze raz, jeszcze raz, niech zyje, zyje nam,
Niech zyje nam!

Good luck, good cheer, may you live a hundred years
Good luck, good cheer, may you live a hundred years
Good luck, good cheer, may you live a hundred years
One hundred years!

Pun With Monks



Lost on a rainy night, a nun stumbles across a monastery and requests shelter there. Fortunately, she's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips she's ever had. After dinner, she goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. She is met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Charles." "I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?" Brother Charles replied, "Well, I'm the fish friar." She turns to the other brother and says, then you must be.....?" "Yes, I'm the chip monk."

Seniorate Meeting

On April 6, 2013 our church hosted the semi-annual Seniorate meeting. These meetings are held to discuss the status of each of the five parishes in the Philadelphia Seniorate. Each pastor gave a report on the activities of their parish since the last meeting. A luncheon was prepared by Karen Amate and Nancy Poposki.

The Polish National Catholic Church is divided into five dioceses and each diocese is divided geographically into seniorates. The Philadelphia Seniorate includes: Holy Cross Parish, Baltimore, Maryland, Our Lord's Ascension Parish, Bethlehem, PA, Our Savior Parish, Lawrenceville, NJ, St. Stephen Parish, Reading, PA, St. Valentine's Parish, Philadelphia, PA

Mania Soltysiak's Meatloaf

1 lb. ground pork
1 lb. ground beef
8 slices stale bread
2 eggs
½ stalk of celery
2 large onions
2 oz butter
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon pepper
fresh parsley



Soak stale bread in milk or water. Squeeze out moisture and mix bread with meat in a deep bowl. Chop onions and celery finely and fry in butter until golden. Add all ingredients together and mix well. Form into loaf and bake at 350 degrees for 1 ¼ hours. Serves 6

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.