



Parish Tidings




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

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

Rev. Bogdan T. Jurczynszyn
ascensionpncc@verizon.net
Rectory: 610-865-1514
August 2012 Volume 1, No. 3

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

A Longtime Tradition

 Pierogie making in the church basement has been a tradition ever since the church was established. It is said that it was the pierogies that paid off the mortgage of the new church.



Today, as the workers roll out their dough and the pinchers assemble the pierogies, the stories of their mothers and grandmothers abound. They talk of how pierogie making was a social event for the whole day including lunch and the singing of Polish songs. Many speak of making fried cabbage pierogies for sale, but talk of how at home the fillings they used included sauerkraut, buckwheat, fried lung, lekvar, blueberries and cherries. Remembering Mania Soltysiak's dedication for more than 50 years, heading up the project under the guidance of Father Poposki and Wanda is a pleasant topic of conversation. Mania always ordered a certain number for her butcher, but rarely was able to deliver because people would come in and she would give them up, one dozen at a time. So it became a running theme each time as to how many the butcher would get. Today, it is still a social event where we solve all the world's problems, but the goal is to complete the process as soon as possible. Father Bogdan, who is one of the rollers, is always ready for a coffee break, but the ladies insist he keep on working. We must be having fun, because Alice Aronson from Broomall likes to know when we are making pierogies so she can join us when she is visiting her daughter in the neighborhood. Jennifer Anderson, who never made or even ate a pierogie before joining us, learned quickly how to roll the dough. In a fun-filled atmosphere she may throw her disks in jest to those waiting. If we find a disk that is oddly-shaped and not thought useable, someone will say, "That's a Lottie,"

referring to Lottie Kociolek who was an expert at making that type of disk viable.



There is often laughter coming from the kitchen where the cooking and cooling of the pierogies take place. So if you can multi-task, that is, have fun and contribute your time to the church at the same time, we would love to have you join us.

Volunteerism

Many members of our parish volunteer in service to our church. Some volunteer their time to serve on the parish committee, others work diligently at Bingo, still others serve regularly in church societies or fund-raisers such as baking rolls or making pierogies. Some of us also volunteer in our communities. Jackie Bayak is one who has given of her time mentoring an 11 year old girl. She works with her once a week for one hour helping with homework and dealing with life situations. She is also involved in a program called Cops-N-Kids. This program was started by a policewoman in Wisconsin to promote an interest in reading by making books available to kids of all ages free of charge. As a retired teacher's aide at Donegan Elementary School, where most of the children are underprivileged, she realized the importance of motivating kids to read more. The program is housed in an old Bethlehem Steel building which was renovated and furnished by local citizens and businesses. The new and gently used books are donated by the community through book drives. The reading library enables children to visit once a week on a Wednesday when they may select 5 free books. It is during this time that Jackie distributes the books to the children, talks about the books with the children, and does bookkeeping jobs. The Bethlehem Policemen that are

involved in the program are there to read to the children. According to Jackie, "I find this time I spend with the children very rewarding." Jackie also volunteers at Musikfest and at Christkindlmarkt. As an ancient Hebrew prophet said, "Deeds of loving kindness are equal in weight to all the commandments." We are interested in knowing how you give of yourself within your community. We hope you will be willing to share your experiences.

Surprise!!



Kira Mohr, our organist, was feted at a surprise "Post Wedding Party" on July 15, 2012 after mass. The special event was sponsored by present and past members of the choir. The congregation "showered" her with practical gifts. They included Andrea's scrubbies, a parish produced cookbook, and a monetary gift. She also received a "Bridal Piggy Bank" which plays the Wedding March when coins are inserted. Kira characterizes herself as an old-fashioned girl who was thrilled to receive the cookbook with recipes for pierogies. She is looking forward to trying all types of pierogies, but especially blueberry. Those that donated and prepared the food were Rane Anthony, Lynn Wunderler, Jo Ann Schaffer, and Helen Trexler.

August at a Glance

Sunday Mass at 9 AM

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

August 5 – Coopersburg Community Day meeting

August 17 and 18 - Pierogi making

August 24 - Committee meeting

August 25 – Iron Pigs Baseball game

August 26 – Baptism of 3 children

August 26 – YMS of R meeting



Pastor's Corner

My Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you some information about the past Special Synod that was held on June 22, 2012 at St. Stanislaus Cathedral and

Youth Center. During this Synod, after a prayer to the Holy Spirit, the delegates from all our churches chose two new bishops: Rev. Bernard Nowicki from the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Bayonne, NJ and Rev. Stanley Bilinski from the parish in Parma, OH.

After a decision by the Supreme Council, our present bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Mack will be transferred back to the Buffalo – Pittsburgh Diocese. Bishop-elect Stanley Bilinski will be assigned to the Western Diocese. Bishop-elect Bernard Nowicki will be assigned to the Central Diocese. Assignments will be effective as of Aug. 1, 2012. The consecration of the two bishops-elect is planned for Sep. 14, 2012 during the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. Please keep in your prayers all the Bishops of our holy church.

Father Bogdan

New Insurance Policies

By Nancy Poposki
Financial Secretary

As of July 1, 2012, Our Lord's Ascension Parish has a new insurance company, Guide One. This new insurance policy will cover the church, rectory and cemetery. Our new insurance agency representing Guide One is J. Pekala & Associates, House of Worship Specialists, from Trevese, Pennsylvania. J. Pekala & Associates have been in the insurance business for over 20 years and is a family run independent insurance agency.

The Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church suggested all parishes contact the J. Pekala & Associates to review their current insurance policy. After Father Bogdan contacted the agency, agent Joe Pekala came out to inspect the church and then presented a policy quote (thanks to Joe Jurnock who met with Joe Pakala during the inspection). Joe Pekala compiled the information together regarding the church, rectory and cemetery. He met twice with our parish committee and reviewed the insurance proposal and quote comparing the quote from Guide One to the existing insurance policy with Church Mutual. After reviewing our Church Mutual policy, we found out that we were vastly underinsured in many areas. In the past, our Church Mutual agent did not contact us at any time to review our current coverage.

The parish committee met for the second time with Joe Pekala, on July 1, 2012, took a vote and accepted the proposal through Guide One. Therefore, we now have a new insurance company as of 12:00 am, July 1, 2012 through Guide One with 2 million dollars in coverage for the church, rectory and cemetery.

Guide One specializes in meeting the protection needs of religious organizations. It is financially strong and rated by A.M. Best as "Excellent," Stable, Strong and Profitable with more than 1 billion in assets. Guide One is the leading insurer of churches in the United States.

Working in the insurance business myself, I feel very comfortable with agent, Joe Pakala and the J. Pekala & Associates, Inc. House of Worship Specialists. Joe Pekala is extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of insurance for churches and can answer any question on the spot. Joe has agreed to come out yearly to OLA to review our insurance policy, with Guide One, and make sure we are up to date on our insurance coverage for the church, rectory, and cemetery.

If anyone has any questions regarding our new insurance policy, please contact Father Bogdan, Nancy Poposki or any member of the parish committee.

	Contributions	Expenses
June	\$3,998.50	\$5,533.07

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.

Sunday School

The SOCL (School of Christian Living) Program serves children in grades Pre-K through 8th grade. Small classes of children are taught by volunteers. Classes are in session from September through May every Sunday from 10:15 am to 11:00 am. While the children attend class, parents are invited to gather in the church hall for hospitality and conversation. The 2012 classes will begin on September 9th. All students must complete registration forms prior to attending class. Students need not be members of the church. Those parents of children from families that are not members of the church are asked to contribute to the cost of texts and supplies. Registration forms may be obtained from Father Bogdan or Tara Broczkowski, the instructor. Please consider helping with the SOCL. We are in need of an additional teacher for the younger children (Pre-K and K), special "speakers" and those with talents to share with the children!

Baptism



Baby Macy Rose, daughter of Michael and Melissa Kozerski received the Holy Sacrament of Baptism during mass on Sunday July 1, 2012. She is pictured with her parents, brother Michael and sister Madeline.

Where is God?

A couple had two little boys who were always getting into trouble. Their parents knew that if any mischief occurred in their village, their sons were probably involved. The boys' mother heard that an elder in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak to them separately. So, the mother sent her youngest son first. The elder, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?" The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response. So the elder repeated the question in an even sterner tone. "Where is God?" Again, the wide-eyed boy made no attempt to answer. The elder raised his voice and bellowed, "WHERE IS GOD?" The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into a closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him hiding, he asked, "What happened?". Gasping for breath, the younger brother replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing, and they think WE did it!"

CROCKPOT SETTLER BEANS



- 1/2 lb bacon
- 1/2 lb ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup sugar (only use 3/4 cup if doubling recipe)
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tbsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp salt (don't double)
- 2 tbsp vinegar
- 16 oz Pork & Beans
- 16 oz kidney beans (drained)
- 16 oz butter beans (drained)

Brown meats before placing into Crockpot
Add remaining ingredients and mix well
Cook on medium heat for approximately 3 hours
Depends on Crockpot temperatures
Add more time for low setting or less time for high setting

A new twist on an old favorite submitted by
Lynn Wunderler