



# Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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## The Easter Lily



The Easter lily is the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flower that symbolizes purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life, which is the spiritual essence of Easter.

Dating back to Biblical scriptures, the lily is mentioned numerous times. One of the most famous Biblical references is in the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ told his listeners: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet... Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Often called the "white-robed apostles of hope, lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by gracing the church and surrounding their crosses with lilies to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus and hope of life everlasting.

### Easter Lilies

Easter morn with lilies fair  
Fills the church with perfumes rare,  
As their clouds of incense rise,  
Sweetest offerings to the skies.  
Stately lilies pure and white  
Flooding darkness with their light,  
Gloom and sorrow drifts away,  
On this holy hallowed day  
Easter Lilies bending low  
In the golden afterglow,  
Bear a message from the sod  
To the heavenly towers of God

Louise Lewin Matthew

### Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday – Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:30 PM  
Good Friday – The Passion of the Lord at 6:30 PM  
Holy Saturday – Blessing of Easter food at 10 AM, & 11 AM  
Easter Vigil at 6 PM  
Easter Sunday– Holy Mass at 9 AM

## 117<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner



The annual parish dinner to celebrate the 117th anniversary of the establishment of the PNCC was held after the 10:30 mass on Sunday, March 9, 2014. After Father Bogdan gave the blessing, everyone was treated to a delicious meatloaf dinner and scrumptious desserts. This brought back memories of the famous Meatloaf Dinners which were served for many years by Pauline Werkman and Mania Soltysiak.

The lucky raffle winners were Danielle Wunderlich, Stephanie Czuba, Ernie Stravrovsky Jr., Hank Kudzik and David Broczkowski. The centerpieces were also given as door prizes.

## YMS of R Social

The men of the YMS of R went out to celebrate another successful year of Bingo on Tuesday March 4, 2014. After 10 years of going to the same restaurant, they chose a new Italian eatery, the Feasta-Pizza, located on Schoenersville Road in Bethlehem. Those attending the dinner were Joe Jurnock, John Sydorak, Dan Broczkowski, Fran Anthony, Walter Poposki, Ernie Stravrovsky, Ernie Stravrovsky, Jr., Evan Weller, Charlie Kovacs, Deacon Donald and Father Bogdan. All enjoyed delicious pasta dinners except for Charlie who had a steak. The men also shared a night of comradery and a few pitchers of beer.

## What a Winter!



Scenes like this one from Andrea and Jerry's front yard were certainly mesmerizing and beautiful this winter. However, viewing Mother Nature's work almost constantly after a near record-breaking amount of snow, we all looked forward to spring which began March 20.

Because of all the snow and ice we want to thank Ernie Stravrovsky for his diligent work in keeping the parking lot clear for all those brave souls who ventured out to attend mass. We appreciate all his efforts and those of Walt and Nancy Poposki who also did a lot of shoveling of snow and ice.

## Breakfast Donations



The YMS of R is the sponsor of the breakfast for the first Sunday of the month. The women's society is responsible for breakfast on the second Sunday of the month. The third, fourth and possibly fifth Sunday are set aside for the rest of the congregation to donate items for the coffee hour. A sign-up sheet is posted on the easel in the narthex of the church. If you are not familiar with the coffee making procedure, Nancy Poposki will be happy to help you.

## April 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  
**April 6 — Bazaar Meeting**  
**ANS Meeting**  
April 12 – Spring Bazaar  
10 AM - 1PM  
**April 13 - Palm Sunday**  
April 17– Holy Thursday  
**April 18- Good Friday**  
April 19 – Holy Saturday  
**April 20 – Easter Sunday**  
April 27 – Children's Mass

## Pastor's Corner



*On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So*

*Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. (Jn 20, 1-8)*

My Dear Friends,

During this month we will rejoice Christ's Resurrection, but we still have two weeks of Lent ahead. We are still in our journey to the tomb of the Lord. We will run as his disciples did that Easter morning and discover the core of the Christian faith – which is that Jesus suffered, died and resurrected for our Salvation.

We are preparing our hearts for this event with joy and with prayer. But when we get there, we will experience a silence of the empty tomb also. We will meditate on this mystery of our faith which is beyond our understanding. We will give thanks to our Lord who sacrificed His life because He loves us. He gives us hope that someday we will be resurrected together with Him. Alleluia!

Father Bogdan

## Chris Bond



With deepest sorrow we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of Chris Bond on March 21, 2014. Since becoming a member of our parish, Chris assumed the responsibility of maintaining the lawn at the church and rectory.

Chris will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Mary Anne Bond Covert and longtime friends Walt Poposki and Dan Broczkowski.

## Congratulations



Karen Amate is happy to announce the arrival of her third grandchild, Campbell Joseph Amate, on February 25, 2014, weighing 8 lbs, 11 oz. and 21 inches long. The proud parents, Jeff and Mimi Amate along with big sister Rosie are delighted to welcome the new addition to their family.

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Jackie and Ron Bayak are pleased to announce their granddaughter, Mallory Kiefer recently graduated from Penn State (Schuylkill) with an Associate Degree in Radiologic Science and is employed at Premier Urgent Care, Hellertown. Mallory is engaged to Ryan Frye and will be married on September 13, 2014.

Congratulations to all.

## Iron Pigs Baseball



A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the basement of the church for anyone interest in attending the parish outing to attend a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs baseball game on Friday, August 1, 2014, 7:05 PM. Payment deadline is June 22, 2014. Please pay Joe Jurnock by check made payable to YMS of R (\$27.00 per person).

## Spring Bazaar

Our Annual Spring Bazaar will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014. Please remember to pick up your donation form, fill it out and return this form as soon as possible to Nancy Poposki, Andrea Gritman, or place in the Bazaar Box in the Narthex. As always church members have been busy baking rolls and making pierogies.

Help is always needed to setup for the bazaar. Tentative schedule:

- April 6 – meeting
- April 6 - Chinese Auction setup
- April 10 – Table setup 9 AM
- April 11- Halupki making, rolls and baked goods setup
- April 12 – Doors open for workers at 8 AM

## A Prayer for Easter Sunday



Young Mike and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Mike received his plate he started

eating straight away.

"Mike, wait until we say grace," demanded his father.

"I don't have to," the five year old replied.

"Of course you do, Michael," his mother insisted rather forcefully. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"Yes, that's at our house," Mike explained, "but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook."

## Crispy Peanut Butter Easter Eggs

- 2 cups creamy peanut butter
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 3 1/2 cups confectionary sugar
- 3 cups crispy rice cereal
- 1 (12 oz.) package of semi-sweet or milk chocolate chips
- 2 Tablespoons shortening



In a mixing bowl, combine peanut butter and butter. Stir in sugar and cereal until a dough is formed. Chill for about an hour. Shape mixture into egg shapes and freeze for 20 minutes.

Melt chocolate chips and shortening in a double boiler over low heat. When melted, dip eggs in Chocolate. Place on waxed paper and allow to cool.

Makes about 20 eggs.

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.