



Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

Rev. Bogdan T. Jurczyszyn
ascensionpncc@verizon.net
Rectory: 610-865-1514
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2105 Jennings Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Office: 610-694-0164
www.ourlordsasscension.org

The Meaning of "12 Days of Christmas"



There is one particular Christmas carol that has always baffled us. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. It is theorized that someone during that era wrote this carol as a Catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for Faith, Hope and Love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Fall Bazaar



Volunteers ready for the start of the Bazaar



Felicia Humpton, pictured with her youth group boys traveled from Virginia.

Our annual Fall Bazaar was held Saturday, November 1, 2014. Although it was a cool, rainy day, devoted customers waited patiently in the wet weather for the doors to open. Thanks to the efforts of Allison Sarkozy, who posted our Bazaar on Craig's List and Tonya Bayak, who posted the Bazaar on Facebook, the public's response was exceptional with many new faces. We sold out of all the soups, pierogies, haluski, stuffed cabbages, and kielbasa. The fund-raising committee and other parishioners worked diligently for weeks preparing for this big event. Special recognition to Jackie Bayak for her efforts at the "white elephant" table where sales records were surpassed. We can certainly say that the bazaar was a great success due to the efforts of our parish family.

The final breakdown is as follows:

Nut Rolls	\$1,261.00
White Elephant	\$ 673.25
Kielbasi/Sauerkraut	\$ 530.00
Crafts	\$ 620.00
East-In	\$ 930.25
Take-Out	\$ 798.75
Chinese Auction	\$ 929.00
Baked Goods	\$ 714.00
Pierogies	\$1,172.00
Donations	\$ 965.00
Total	\$8,593.25
Expenses	\$ 332.95
Total Profit	\$8,260.30

Additional sales during the month of November netted another \$621.50 increasing the total profit to \$8,881.80.

ANS Plans Annual Christmas Dinner

The annual Christmas Dinner sponsored by the ANS will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 12:00 noon. Mass that day will be celebrated at 10:30 AM. The cost of the dinner is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 6 to 12. The menu is as following: Ham, Ultimate Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn Casserole, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee or Tea, Wine for a toast and sharing of the Oplatek. We will also hold a raffle at the dinner. The cost of the raffle tickets is 6 for \$5.00. Join our parish family and help celebrate the beginning of the Joyous Christmas season.

A Remembrance Tree



On Sunday December 14, 2014, the day of our parish Christmas dinner, a remembrance tree will be placed on St. Joseph's side of the altar. Part of the tree will be adorned with vintage Christmas ornaments from Poland which were donated by Sandy Collier. We are encouraging each parishioner to contribute an ornament in remembrance of loved ones which you will place on the tree during mass that day.

Ladies Christmas Social

The ANS is sponsoring a "Ladies Christmas Social" for all the women of the church at 12 noon on Saturday December 20, 2014. JoAnn Schaffer is again hosting this covered dish get-together at her home. Along with great food, and good fellowship, there will be some games and prizes.

Please remember to sign-up on the sheet in the narthex of the church. Hope to see all the women of the parish there.

December at a Glance

- Mass at 9 AM
- Coffee Social after Mass**
- SOCL after Mass
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM**
- December 7- ANS meeting
- December 14 - Christmas Dinner**
- Mass - 10:30 AM**
- December 20 - Ladies Social - 12 Noon
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Service**
- To be announced**
- December 25 - Christmas Day - 10 AM
- Committee Meeting - To be announced**

Pastor's Corner

My Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we already have started our preparation for Christmas. The ending year passed so quickly that we feel somehow surprised to reflect again upon the birthday of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. Our reflection will be based on the four Sundays of Advent.

The first two Sundays of Advent are preparing us for the second coming of Christ at the end of time. The other two Sundays are strictly focusing on the upcoming birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

The cycle 'B' in the Church calendar opens for us several steps in our preparation for Christmas. In the beginning we have to stay awake and on guard. Awake spiritually to love one another, and to be on guard – being aware that it is so hard to hold God's grace in our hearts and it is so easy to lose it.

Moving deeper into Advent we will hear the words of prophet Isaiah spoken by John Baptizer: "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths..." During the second week of Advent we are invited to repent of our sins. It is exactly what the prophet Isaiah meant talking about making paths straight. We are invited to take out from our sight everything that does not allow us to see our Lord. Everything that distract us one way or another from reaching out for our goal - to make the paths straight. We have to remove some stones from our hearts by forgiving each other - to make everything straight. We have to stay focused on our preparation for the Lord to come.

From the third Sunday of Advent we will be told to watch the signs and to read them correctly. In this process forgiving and getting forgiveness from others, will allow us to recognize Jesus walking among us. We know that from St. Matthew 5: "Blessed are the pure in heart; they shall see God." Finally the fourth Sunday of Advent will show us Mary, the mother of God, as the best example of how to respond to the God's voice and calling: "I am the servant of the Lord, let it happen to me as you have said".

Our preparation is taking place already, today, now. We have to ask ourselves individually: Am I ready to start this spiritual journey to welcome Jesus in my heart at Christmas Vigil Mass? Am I ready to use the example of holy men as St. John Baptizer, and women as Holy Mother Mary to be God's witness and disciple among the nations, among my family, among my friends and neighbors? Am I ready to do that? If we respond positively to these questions, we can experience a miracle of Christmas - "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord (Lk 2, 11)". Merry Christmas!!!

Fr. Bogdan Jurczynszyn

A Christmas Gift

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed that the Baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, "Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant? Harry replied honestly, "I took him from the church, Father John. "And why did you take him?" questioned Father John. With a sheepish smile, Harry said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him that if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it."

Around the Parish

Hank Kudzik was one of twelve guest speakers at the Veterans Living History Event held in Kingston, NY on October 25, 2014. Hank, a Navy Chief Petty officer on the USS Natilus submarine, presented his account of the Battle of Midway which was the most significant naval battle of the Pacific Campaign of World War II.



Tony and Madeline Getsko are happy to announce the arrival of their grandson. Jacob Josar, on November 24, 2014, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 20 inches long. Proud parents Brad and Kara Josar, along with big brother Luke are happy to welcome him into the world and their lives.



On Sunday, November 23 Helen Trexler celebrated her 92nd birthday with cake, coffee and other treats. Thanks to Lynn Wunderler for hosting this milestone in her mother's life.

Wishing you another year of blessings. Sto Lat!



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.

A limited number of nut and apricot rolls will be available for sale on Sunday, December 7. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church.

Looking for a last minute Christmas gift. See Joe Jurnock for you Lottery Calendar ticket.

Guest Speaker

After Mass on Sunday, November 17, 2014 State Trooper Marc Allen, a community service officer, explained a few plans for safety. A humorous and entertaining speaker Trooper Allen made the following suggestions:



- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Don't be afraid to look people in the eye
- Vary your routine
- Be observant
- Don't be afraid to call the police
- Trust your instincts and have a plan

Chrusciki (Polish Angel Wings)

Ingredients:

- 1 handful of sugar
- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup Crisco
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups water



Directions

Mix flour, sugar, Crisco, salt and baking powder together. Pour vanilla into the water and then add it to your ingredients. Mix well. Dough should be soft, but not sticky to your hands. If too soft, add a little more flour. Roll dough in the order of pierogie dough. Cut into strips about 1x5 inches. Make slit in the center. Take one end and turn it over. Take the top and the other end through the bottom. Deep fry in Crisco shortening. Cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Submitted by Rane Anthony as per Lottie Kocholek's original recipe.

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.